SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ORANGE - COMPLEX JUSTICE CENTER DEPARTMENT CX-102 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, acting by and through acting Santa Clara County Counsel Orry P. Korb and Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas,) Plaintiff,) NO. 2014-00725287 VS. PURDUE PHARMA L.P.; PURDUE PHARMA,) INC.; THE PURDUE FREDERICK COMPANY,) INC.; JOHNSON & JOHNSON JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.; ORTHO-MCNEIL-JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., n/k/a JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., n/k/a JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.; ENDO) HEALTH SOLUTIONS, INC.; ENDO PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.; WATSON LABORATORIES, INC.; ACTAVIS LLC; and ACTAVIS PHARMA, INC., f/k/a WATSON PHARMA, INC.; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, Defendants. TRIAL PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HON. PETER J. WILSON, JUDGE PRESIDING REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF REMOTE PROCEEDINGS Tuesday, May 18, 2021 MAGNA LEGAL SERVICES 866-624-6221 www.MagnaLS.com CAROLYN GREGOR, CSR 2351, CRR, CMR, RDR Court Approved Reporter Pro Tem Court Approved Reporter Pro Tem



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1
              REMOTE APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL VIA ZOOM
 2
     FOR PLAINTIFFS:
 3
         ROBINSON CALCAGNIE, INC.
              MARK ROBINSON, ESQ.
 4
              KEVIN F. CALCAGNIE, ESQ.
              PAUL DAGASTINO, III, ESQ.
 5
         19 Corporate Plaza Drive
         Newport Beach, CA 92660
 6
         kcalcagnie@robinsonfirm.com
         pdagastino@robinsonfirm.com
 7
 8
         MOTLEY RICE
         Attorneys at Law
 9
         BY: FREDERICK C. BAKER, ESQ.
              MICHAEL PENDELL, ESQ.
10
              SARA COUCH, ESQ.
              CHRISTOPHER MORIARTY, ESQ.
11
              KRISTEN HERMIZ, ESQ.
              FIDELMA FITZPATRICK, ESQ.
12
              ANDREW ARNOLD, ESQ.
              JESSICA COLOMBO, ESQ.
         28 Bridgeside Blvd.
13
         Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina
                                        29464
         fbaker@motleyrice.com
14
         mpendell@motleyrice.com
15
         scouch@motleyrice.com
         cmoriarty@motleyrice.com
16
         khermiz@motleyrice.com
         ffitzpatrick@motleyrice.com
17
         aarnold@motleyrice.com
         jcolombo@motleyrice.com
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
```



```
1
                      APPEARANCES (CONTINUED)
 2
     FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA:
         OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL
 3
         COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
              KARUN TILAK, ESQ.
              KAVITA NARAYAN, ESQ.
 4
              HANNAH KIESCHNICK, ESQ.
 5
              JULIA SPIEGEL, ESQ.
              H. LUKE EDWARDS, ESQ.
         70 West Hedding Street, 9th Floor, East Wing
 6
         San Jose, CA 95110-1705
         kavita.narayan@cco.sccgov.org
 7
         karun.tilak@cco.sccgov.org
         hannah.kieschnick@cco.sccgov.org
 8
         julia.spiegel@cco.sccgov.org
 9
         luke.edwards@sccgov.org
10
     FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES:
         OFFICE OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY COUNSEL
              ANDREA E. ROSS, ESQ.
11
              TRACY HUGHES, ESQ
12
         500 W. Temple Street, 6th Floor
         Los Angeles, CA 90012
         213.787.2310
13
         aross@counsel.lacounty.gov
         thughes@lacounty.gov
14
     FOR THE CITY OF OAKLAND:
15
         OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
              MALIA MCPHERSON, ESQ.
16
              ZOE SAVITSKY, ESQ.
17
         1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 6th Floor
         Oakland, CA
                       94612
         510.238.6392
18
         mmcpherson@oaklandcityattorney.org
19
         zsavitsky@oaklandcityattorney.org
         SKIKOS CRAWFORD SKIKOS & JOSEPH, LLP
20
         BY: MARK G. CRAWFORD, ESQ.
         One Sansome Street, Suite 2830
21
         San Francisco, CA 94104
22
         mcrawford@skikos.com
23
24
25
26
```



```
APPEARANCES (CONTINUED)
 2
     FOR THE DEFENDANTS:
 3
     For Johnson & Johnson; Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.;
     Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., n/k/a Janssen
 4
     Pharmaceuticals; Janssen Pharmaceutica, Inc., n/k/a
     Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.:
 5
         O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP
         BY: MICHAEL G. YODER, ESQ.
 6
              AMY R. LUCAS, ESQ.
 7
              STEVE BRODY, ESQ.
              AMY LAURENDEAU, ESQ.
 8
              CHARLES LIFLAND, ESQ.
         1999 Avenue of the Stars
 9
         Los Angeles, CA
         myoder@omm.com
10
         alucas@omm.com
         sbrody@omm.com
         alaurendeau@omm.com
11
         clifland@@omm.com
12
13
     For Endo Health Solutions and Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc:
         HUESTON & HENNIGAN, LLP
              JOHN C. HUESTON, ESQ.
14
              PADRAIC FORAN, ESQ.
              MOEZ M. KABA, ESQ.
15
              STEPHEN MAYER, ESQ.
              DAVID SARFATI, ESQ.
16
              JOSH BURK, ESQ.
              KAREN DING, ESQ.
17
         523 West 6th Street, Suite 400
         Los Angeles, CA 90014
18
         jhueston@hueston.com
         pforan@hueston.com
19
         mkaba@hueston.com
20
         smayer@hueston.com
         dsafarti@hueston.com
         jburk@hueston.com
21
         kding@hueston.com
22
         ARNOLD & PORTER | KAYE SCHOLER
23
              SEAN MORRIS, ESQ.
         777 South Figueroa Street, 44th Floor
         Los Angeles, CA 90017-5844
24
         sean.morris@arnoldporter.com
25
26
```



```
APPEARANCES (CONTINUED)
 1
 2
     For Teva, Cephalon, Watson Laboratories, Inc.; Actavis
 3
     LLC, and Actavis Pharma, Inc. f/k/a Watson Pharma, Inc.:
         MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS, LLP
         BY: ADAM TEITCHER, ESQ.
 4
              COLLIE JAMES, ESQ.
 5
              WENDY WEST FEINSTEIN, ESQ.
              BRIAN ERCOLE, ESQ.
         600 Anton Boulevard, Suite 1800
 6
         Costa Mesa, CA 92626-7653
 7
         james.collie@morganlewis.com
         adam.teitcher@morganlewis.com
         wendy.feinstein@morganlewis.com
 8
         brian.ercole@morganlewis.com
 9
     For Actavis PLC; Actavis, Inc.; Watson Pharmaceuticals,
10
     Inc., n/k/a Actavis, Inc.; Watson Laboratories, Inc.;
     Actavis LLC; Actavis Pharma, Inc., f/k/a Watson Pharma,
11
     Inc.:
12
         KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP
         BY: DONNA WELCH ESQ.
13
              KARL STAMPFL, ESQ.
14
              ZACHARY BYER, ESQ.
              JENNIFER LEVY, ESQ.
         300 North LaSalle
15
         Chicago, Illinois 60654
16
         donna.welch@kirkland.com
         karl.stampfl@kirkland.com
         zachary.byer@kirkland.com
17
         jennifer.levy@kirkland.com
18
     (And other appearances as may be found on Clerk's
     Minute Order.)
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
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1	I-N-D-E-X					
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3	WITNESS	DIRECT	CROSS REDIRECT	RECROSS DIRE	i I	
4						
5	FOR THE PLAINTIFF:					
6						
7	J. BORDONA	2338	2389			
	BY MS. LUCAS		2377			
8	BY MR. STAMPFL		2385			
	BY MR. FORAN		2386			
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	A. LEMBKE	2393				
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6	DEF-CA-102010		2333
7		WITHDRAWN FROM EVIDENCE	
8	ROA 6702	All documents admitted on 5-17-21	2333
0	ROA 6/02	are now withdrawn from evidence	2333
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9	D CA 00001	to include the following:	
10	P-CA-000921		
11	JAN-CA-102005		
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	DEF-CA-102001		
26	DEF-CA-102002		



Page 2330 FROM SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA - TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021 1 2 MORNING SESSION 3 9:00 A.M. -000-4 5 (The following proceedings were held via Zoom 6 7 with all counsel appearing remotely:) 8 9 THE COURT: Good morning, everybody. We are 10 back on the record. We are going to start with several 11 procedural issues. One item from yesterday. We discussed and I 12 admitted the documents identified in ROA 6702. This was 13 the document that resulted in further discussion about 14 15 how to treat the IQVIA data sets and how they were to be 16 addressed. On taking a look at the submission, I do not 17 18 think it appropriate to have admitted all of the 19 documents. What the parties agreed was not to object to 20 admissibility of the data sets. The agreement is 21 reciprocal regardless of which party chooses to introduce 22 the evidence. 23 It does not appear to me, looking at these documents, that these are the sorts of documents that 24 25 should simply be admitted untethered to a witness. 2.6 Instead, pursuant to what the parties I think intended to



- 1 agree, if a witness intends to discuss or refer to a
- 2 document and the document is then admitted, there would
- 3 be no objection.
- 4 My proposal, therefore, would be to withdraw the
- 5 wholesale admission of these documents and instead, as
- 6 and when documents are proffered that are on this list,
- 7 there would be no objection.
- 8 Does any party wish to be heard on that issue?
- 9 MR. PENDELL: Your Honor, yes. I need to go
- 10 back and check the transcript, but I think that I did
- 11 actually offer the data through Ms. Keller is my
- 12 recollection, and I think it was admitted without
- 13 objection.
- 14 THE COURT: Which data, Mr. Pendell? There's a
- 15 whole list of databases here.
- 16 MR. PENDELL: I'm sorry, your Honor. I was
- 17 having a speaker problem. I did not hear what you said.
- 18 THE COURT: Which data are you referring to?
- 19 There's a whole list of data sets.
- 20 MR. PENDELL: I apologize. It was the IQVIA
- 21 data specifically.
- 22 THE COURT: There are approximately ten-plus
- 23 different IQVIA data sets identified here. Is it your
- 24 recollection that all of these were somehow admitted
- 25 through Keller's testimony?
- 26 MR. PENDELL: No, your Honor. I believe it was



- 1 three. And I can give you the specific Bates numbers,
- 2 and I can go back and, like I said, check that transcript
- 3 to verify that it was those three. And I can get
- 4 clarification for you by this afternoon if that's okay,
- 5 your Honor.
- 6 THE COURT: Let's do this in the interim, then.
- 7 The blanket order that I entered yesterday which was that
- 8 everything identified on 6702, ROA 6702, was admitted is
- 9 withdrawn. Those documents are not admitted on a
- 10 wholesale basis as listed in that document.
- Documents previously admitted, of course, remain
- 12 admitted. And if any witness -- if, through any witness,
- 13 counsel intend to introduce any of these identified
- 14 documents pursuant to this stipulation, there would be no
- 15 objection and they would be admitted. But I'm not doing
- 16 a blanket admission of them today.
- 17 Mr. Pendell, on the ones that you think are
- 18 covered, either raise it during trial and we can address
- 19 it like that or file something indicating which ones you
- 20 believe Ms. Keller properly -- you moved to admit through
- 21 Ms. Keller, and I'll confirm that those are indeed
- 22 admitted.
- 23 MR. PENDELL: Your Honor, while we were
- 24 speaking, it's been handed to me that it has been
- 25 verified -- I apologize. There were actually two that
- 26 went in through Ms. Keller, and they are DEF-CA-102015



Page 2333 and 016. 1 2 THE COURT: Both of those are in this list. 3 both of those, if not already formally admitted, are hereby formally admitted. 102015, 102016. Both have the 4 5 DEF Bates number. 6 (Whereupon, Defendants' Exhibit Nos. 7 DEF-CA-102015 and DEF-CA-102016 were received in evidence.) 8 9 (Whereupon, exhibits previously admitted as part of ROA 6702 on 5-17-21 are now withdrawn 10 11 from evidence.) marked for identification.) 12 THE COURT: Also a question on exhibits. 13 ROA 6812 is the People's amended list of exhibits 14 15 admitted during trial on May 3. The list purports to be documents actually admitted into evidence on May 3. But 16 commencing on page 5, line 8, there are pages of data 17 sets that, according to my notes and my clerk's notes, 18 19 were not referred to or admitted on that date. 20 I need to understand why they're listed here and 21 what the party -- what the People had in mind. 22 MS. FITZPATRICK: I apologize, your Honor. I'm 23 going to have to go pull that with someone and get an 24 answer for you either by the break or immediately after 25 lunch. 26 THE COURT: It's ROA 6812, and the question



Page 2334 starts on page 5, line 8. 1 2 MS. FITZPATRICK: Okay. 3 THE COURT: From there to the end, there is a 4 list -- many of which, just on a very quick review, seem 5 to mirror some of those in the previous documents we just discussed, but I certainly don't have a record of them 6 7 being admitted on May 3. Just take a look at that, and let's discuss again when you have a chance. 8 9 MS. FITZPATRICK: Certainly, your Honor. 10 THE COURT: Picking up yesterday's issues, the 11 People's bench brief in support of admitting the data from the Orange County Health Agency report. 12 Are the People ready to address that issue 13 14 again? Ms. Fitzpatrick, you're on mute. Was 15 Mr. Robinson going to cover this? 16 MR. ROBINSON: Your Honor, I don't know if you 17 18 can hear me. I am on mute, I think. 19 MS. FITZPATRICK: He was, your Honor. I see him 20 or at least see his screen. 21 THE COURT: Mr. Robinson, are you with us? 22 Can you hear me now, your Honor? MR. ROBINSON: 23 THE COURT: I can hear you now. Thank you. 24 MR. ROBINSON: Okay. Good, I'm sorry. 25 Really, your Honor, I'd rather not do this at



26

this time. I think that, you know, we have -- there was

- 1 one statement by you that you're going to allow us to
- 2 have this evidence come in, and I think in some ways
- 3 you've changed positions.
- 4 But I think before we can really figure this all
- 5 out, I'd like to move on with other witnesses and
- 6 whatnot, your Honor, and then we can discuss this. Part
- 7 of me doesn't really want to have to call other witnesses
- 8 and whatnot. I do think what the Court said is accurate
- 9 in the transcript here I read.
- 10 But I really would like to wait, your Honor, and
- 11 maybe we can discuss this when there's not a potential
- 12 witness here waiting to be examined.
- 13 THE COURT: We'll simply table this issue for
- 14 further discussion and no rulings are made with respect
- 15 to the request at this time. Before the People rest,
- 16 obviously, we'll need to readdress the issue if the
- 17 People wish to do so.
- 18 The admissions issue may be in a similar vein.
- 19 Do the parties want to table that issue until we
- 20 don't have witnesses on deck?
- 21 MR. STAMPFL: That would be fine with the
- 22 Allergan defendants, your Honor.
- 23 MR. BAKER: That's fine with the People as well.
- 24 THE COURT: Let's do that. We'll keep that on
- 25 second call, so to speak, as well.
- 26
 I did not have anything else of a procedural



- 1 nature before returning to the witnesses. Was there
- 2 anything else from the parties' perspective we need to
- 3 address before resuming witnesses testimony?
- 4 MR. BAKER: Yes, your Honor. Fred Baker for the
- 5 People. Just one issue that I briefly raised yesterday
- 6 to keep on your Honor's radar.
- 7 The defendants have listed roughly 45 live
- 8 will-call witnesses. As your Honor can see, we're coming
- 9 down towards the end of our case. And in order to
- 10 facilitate our preparations for crosses, we believe it's
- 11 appropriate at this point in time for the defendants to
- 12 begin paring back their list so that we can actually have
- 13 a real list to work off of.
- 14 THE COURT: Mr. Baker, I'll return to that
- 15 issue. I'm not likely to push it until we are at the
- 16 stage where the People rest so that I can appropriately
- 17 tell the defendants they now know the scope of the case
- 18 that they're meeting and they need to make their, at
- 19 least, firmer decisions.
- So that issue is duly noted, and we will return
- 21 to it, but nothing that I think is the right thing to
- 22 push today.
- 23 How many more days of testimony, simply
- 24 approximately, are the People anticipating?
- 25 MS. FITZPATRICK: Your Honor, we anticipate that
- 26 we should go through the early part of next week, Monday



- 1 or maybe into Tuesday at some point, and we will then be
- 2 ready to rest our case. We have a few witnesses who are
- 3 left and some depositions -- and deposition transcripts
- 4 to get into evidence. So we anticipate that the
- 5 defendants would be able to begin their case next week.
- 6 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
- 7 Are the People ready with their next witness?
- 8 MS. McPHERSON: Yes, your Honor. This is Malia
- 9 McPherson from the Oakland City Attorney's Office for the
- 10 People. The People will call Officer Julian Bordona as
- 11 our next witness. And he should be in the waiting room,
- 12 if he is not currently on the screen. And I see him now.
- 13 THE COURT: Madam Clerk, would you swear the
- 14 witness, please.
- 15 THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand.
- 16 Mr. Bordona, please raise your right hand.
- 17 MS. McPHERSON: It looks like there's some
- 18 speaker issues. He is generally pretty tech savvy. So I
- 19 think if we give him a second.
- 20 THE CLERK: Where did he go?
- 21 THE WITNESS: I think I have you, ma'am. Thank
- 22 you, ma'am. Apologies.
- 23 THE CLERK: No problem. Thank you. Let's see.
- Do you solemnly state that the testimony you
- 25 shall give in this matter now pending before this court
- 26 will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the



Page 2338 truth, so help you God? 1 2 THE WITNESS: I do. 3 THE CLERK: Please state your name and spell 4 your last name for the record. 5 THE WITNESS: Julian Bordona, B-O-R-D-O-N-A. THE CLERK: Thank you. 6 7 JULIAN BORDONA * 8 called as a witness by and on behalf of the plaintiff, 9 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified 10 as follows: 11 THE COURT: Good morning. Thank you. 12 Ms. McPherson, you may continue. 13 MS. McPHERSON: Thank you, your Honor. 14 * DIRECT EXAMINATION * 15 BY MS. McPHERSON: And thank you, Officer Bordona, for being here 16 this morning. Let's begin. 17 Are you a current employee of the City of 18 19 Oakland? 20 A Yes. 21 In which City of Oakland department? Q 22 The police department. Α 23 And what is you're current position in the 24 Oakland Police Department? 25 I'm currently a sworn peace officer assigned to the Violent Crimes Operations Center. 26



Page 2339 Great. And we'll get to what your work entailed 1 2 in Oakland in greater detail in just a few minutes, but 3 for now how long have you been with the Oakland Police Department? 4 5 Α Approximately six and a half, almost seven years. 6 7 And have you testified in court before? Q 8 Yes. Α 9 Q Approximately how many times? 10 I would say anywhere between a dozen to two Α 11 dozen. And were all of those times for criminal 12 Q matters? 13 14 Α Yes. And were all of those times with the Oakland 15 Police Department? 16 Α Yes. 17 And for purposes of this morning, is it okay if 18 I use the term OPD to refer to the Oakland Police 19 20 Department? 21 Α Yes. I'm going to turn now to ask you about your 22 23 education and work history briefly. 24 What was your first position or job as a first 25 responder? 26 That was an EMT, ma'am.



		Page 2340
1	Q	And what does EMT stand for?
2	А	Emergency medical technician.
3	Q	Where did you attend EMT school?
4	А	Modesto Junior College.
5	Q	And after you graduated from EMT school, how
6	long did	you work as an EMT?
7	А	Approximately 18 to 24 months.
8	Q	And what did you do after that?
9	А	I attended paramedic school.
10	Q	And did you graduate from paramedic school?
11	А	That would have been I believe it was July of
12	2005.	
13	Q	And was that the same year, 2005, that you
14	received	your paramedic license?
15	А	Yes.
16	Q	And what training is required to obtain a
17	paramedic license?	
18	А	For that there is a classroom portion of
19	approximately I believe it's 320 hours. There is a	
20	clinical	portion in a hospital that is approximately 240
21	hours and then clinical rotations on an ambulance of	
22	anywhere	between 480 to 720 hours.
23	Q	Thank you.
24		And are you still a licensed paramedic?
25	A	Yes.
26	Q	And at a high level, please explain the



- 1 difference between an EMT and a paramedic.
- 2 A An EMT is essentially an assistant to a
- 3 paramedic. Paramedics are the ones administering
- 4 intervenous drugs and more invasive procedures for
- 5 patient care.
- 6 Q Where did you work as a paramedic?
- 7 A Stanislaus County.
- 8 Q How long did you work as a paramedic in
- 9 Stanislaus County?
- 10 A That would have been approximately 10 years, 12
- 11 including the EMT portion.
- 12 Q And I'm going to turn now just to ask some
- 13 questions about your training and background work as a
- 14 paramedic. In asking you questions I'm going to use the
- 15 term "opioids."
- 16 Please tell the Court your understanding of that
- 17 term so that we can all be on the same page when I'm
- 18 using the term "opioids" in my question.
- 19 A Opioids speaking to either the illicit street
- 20 drug use or also to include prescription drugs.
- 21 Q Okay. Great. And I think you answered this but
- 22 just to confirm, when I use the term opioids, you'll
- 23 understand that I mean both illicit and prescribed ones?
- 24 A Yes.
- 25 Q As part of your paramedic training, were you
- 26 trained in identifying and responding to opioid



Page 2342 overdoses? 1 2 Α Yes. 3 At a high level, what type of training did you receive to identify the response to opioid overdoses? 4 5 Α Recognition of signs and symptoms along with what would be described as outlying factors near my 7 patient. 8 Did you receive paramedic training to 9 distinguish between opioid overdoses and non-opioids 10 overdoses? Α 11 Yes. Please describe any training you received as a 12 Q paramedic to identify/distinguish between different types 13 of opioids. 14 From that it would be understanding the 15 different trade names that are used in prescribing, along 16 with the different paraphernalia associated with illicit 17 18 use. 19 As a paramedic, did you respond to opioid overdoses? 20 21 Α Yes. 22 How frequently? I would say anywhere from five to ten calls 23 24 within a month period. 25 And as a paramedic responding to calls, which



types of opioids did you encounter?

26

- 1 A Everything from a prescription to include
- 2 fentanyl, Dilaudid, things of the such, up to heroin use
- 3 via intravenously or through nasal use.
- 4 Q How often as a paramedic did you have to
- 5 distinguish between different types of drug overdoses to
- 6 inform your response as a paramedic?
- 7 A That would be any time there was an overdose
- 8 patient, be it accidental or intentional.
- 9 Q And how frequently, if you had to estimate?
- 10 A Including the accidental, I would put that
- 11 anywhere from 10 to 15 in a month period.
- 12 Q And based on your training and field experience
- 13 as a paramedic, what signs and symptoms would you look
- 14 for as signs of an opioid overdose?
- 15 A In order to determine from head to toe, you
- 16 would be looking at pupillary response, or how the pupils
- 17 respond to light, whether they're equal, the size of the
- 18 pupil; along with skin signs, if somebody is pale, cool
- 19 to the touch, diaphoretic or what's referred to as
- 20 sweaty; to include respirations, determining whether they
- 21 are below the acceptable level to sustain life; along
- 22 with the cognitive awareness of the patient.
- 23 Q And to confirm, those are signs and symptoms you
- 24 would look for to confirm an opioid overdose; is that
- 25 correct?
- 26 A Yes.



- 1 Q Based on your training and field experience as a
- 2 paramedic, what other nonmedical signs would you look for
- 3 in identifying an opioid overdose?
- 4 A With that, we would also expand our
- 5 visualization of the patient to include the immediate
- 6 scene in their area. With that, we would be looking for
- 7 prescription bottles that can lead us to understanding
- 8 what this person may have taken, loose pills nearby.
- 9 Also any kind of illicit paraphernalia, be it pipes,
- 10 syringes, lighters, spoons with residue, anything of the
- 11 such.
- 12 Q What was the primary method you used in response
- 13 to opioid overdoses as a paramedic?
- 14 A Would that be referring to the treatment
- 15 modality?
- 16 Q Yes. Thank you.
- 17 A That would be Narcan, or what's also referred to
- 18 as naloxone.
- 19 Q And I know that we have had testimony already in
- 20 this case, but just so the Court understands your
- 21 understanding, what is Narcan?
- 22 A In the most simple way to define it, it is an
- 23 antidote for opioid overdose.
- 24 Q I'm going to transition now to asking about your
- 25 career in law enforcement.
- 26 From your career as a paramedic, what was your



- 1 first position when you transitioned to law enforcement
- 2 work?
- 3 A As a police officer trainee in the Oakland
- 4 Academy.
- 5 Q And to confirm, did you have any transitional
- 6 work from your paramedic that also incorporated law
- 7 enforcement work?
- 8 A I did spend approximately four years assigned to
- 9 a SWAT team in the city of Ceres as a tactical paramedic.
- 10 Q And so then you previously said you applied to
- 11 be a police officer; is that correct?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q And what was your first position with OPD?
- 14 A That would have been the police officer training
- 15 position.
- 16 Q And was that part of the police academy?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q When did you graduate from the Oakland Police
- 19 Academy?
- 20 A July 3rd, 2014.
- 21 Q And what was your first sworn role with OPD?
- 22 A I would have been assigned to the patrol
- 23 division.
- 24 Q And approximately how long were you assigned to
- 25 the patrol division?
- 26 A That would have been approximately a year and a



- 1 half.
- 2 Q What were your primary duties as a patrol
- 3 officer in the patrol division?
- 4 A Primary duties was responding to calls for
- 5 service, be it generated by 911 use or flag-downs with
- 6 bystanders that were saying we need help here, to include
- 7 proactive patrol in areas that are determined to be
- 8 problematic in our area.
- 9 Q And when you were a patrol officer, how much of
- 10 your time while on duty did you spend in the Oakland
- 11 community?
- 12 A Approximately 90 percent of my time.
- 13 Q And when you were out in the community, describe
- 14 further what your day-to-day looked like as a patrol
- 15 officer.
- 16 A Typically, it will start at the beginning of
- 17 shift with a briefing, lasting anywhere from 15 to 20
- 18 minutes, describing events prior to our shift, events
- 19 that were determined to be happening during our shift,
- 20 and any other intelligence information that we needed to
- 21 have to be able to effectively police our community. And
- 22 in addition to that, also forecasting any training that
- 23 would be happening either that day or the following day.
- 24 Q And I think you described the shift change.
- 25 Could you further describe what the rest of your
- 26 day-to-day looked like as a patrol officer.



- 1 A From there we would obtain our vehicles which we
- 2 were assigned, do our checkout, make sure we had all of
- 3 our equipment, and then proceed to answer what we call
- 4 call for service or anybody that has called 911 that has
- 5 a scene on what we call our board or the computer system
- 6 that dispatches.
- 7 From there, once we handled all the calls that
- 8 were in our beat, we were able to focus on proactive
- 9 policing and be able to assist our community resource
- 10 officers that have identified problems in the beat to
- 11 which we were assigned.
- 12 Q What was your next sworn role with OPD?
- 13 A From there, I tested and was accepted into our
- 14 crime reduction team.
- 15 Q Do you still work on the crime reduction team?
- 16 A Yes, under a different name.
- 17 Q And I think you mentioned this earlier. What is
- 18 that new name?
- 19 A Approximately two months ago we transitioned our
- 20 name to become the Violent Crimes Operations Center.
- 21 Q And describe at a high level the activities of
- 22 the Violent Crime Operations Center.
- 23 A We handle all of the enforcements related to the
- 24 more violent crimes in the city. Typically any crime
- 25 that results from gunfire or gang activity is what we
- 26 respond to. We are the more -- boots on the ground, if



- 1 you will, for our investigations division with our
- 2 investigators, who are also referred to as detectives, in
- 3 order to apprehend the more violent of the criminals in
- 4 the city of Oakland.
- 5 Q And if I use the acronym VCOC, will you
- 6 understand that to mean the Violent Crime Operations
- 7 Center?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q As a member of the VCOC, how much of your time
- 10 do you spend in the Oakland community?
- A Anywhere from 70 to 80 percent of my time.
- 12 Q When you are out in the Oakland community,
- 13 describe what your experience of day to day looks like.
- 14 A Typically, we are responding to the more violent
- 15 and affected areas of Oakland due to gang activity and
- 16 firearm-related crimes. We can conduct anything from
- 17 plainclothes surveillance to include any kind of
- 18 narcotics sales that are related to the gang activity,
- 19 the firearms trafficking, along with conducting search
- 20 warrant services and arrest warrant service.
- 21 Q And please describe at a high level any special
- 22 or individual responsibilities you have in addition to
- 23 your work in the VCOC.
- 24 A In addition, I'm also assigned to our training
- 25 division. I am a member of the training cadre for first
- 26 aid and CPR. I currently am the subject matter expert



- 1 for the department for medicine along with conducting
- 2 in-service training, academy training for first aid, CPR.
- 3 Excuse me. With that, I also offer policies and
- 4 procedures that pertain to medicine, and I am also the
- 5 liaison for our Narcan program.
- 6 Q Thank you. I'll turn in a minute to ask you
- 7 some more questions about the Narcan program.
- 8 You described earlier that, in your paramedic
- 9 training, you were trained to identify and distinguish
- 10 between different types of opioids.
- For any of your positions at OPD, were you also
- 12 trained to identify and distinguish between different
- 13 types of opioids?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q And which position did you receive that training
- 16 for?
- 17 A That was during the academy as a police officer
- 18 trainee.
- 19 Q What type of training did you receive?
- 20 A That was identification and recognition of signs
- 21 and symptoms of overdoses.
- 22 Q Did you receive any nonmedical training in the
- 23 academy about identifying and distinguish between types
- 24 of opioids?
- 25 A Yes.
- 26 Q And what type of nonmedical training did you



- 1 receive?
- 2 A That was identification of paraphernalia used in
- 3 order to allow a subject to use illicit drugs along with
- 4 the recognition and identification of the drugs
- 5 themselves.
- 6 Q I'm going to turn now to background and what
- 7 you've observed regarding opioids in your work in
- 8 Oakland.
- 9 Based on your personal observations in the seven
- 10 or so years that you've been an OPD peace officer, have
- 11 you observed an impact of opioids on the Oakland
- 12 community?
- 13 A Yes.
- Q What have you personally observed reflecting an
- impact of opioids on the Oakland community?
- 16 A I've seen a substantial increase in just the
- 17 paraphernalia you see on the street. Initially when I
- 18 first began working as a peace officer, it was more
- 19 focused into just general areas of known drug use and
- 20 drug trafficking. And over the course of the last
- 21 several years, I've seen it explode into affecting almost
- 22 all areas of Oakland that I've encountered.
- 23 Q Please describe any problems or effects
- 24 associated with opioid use that you've observed in the
- 25 community.
- 26 A So one of the things that is most prolific to me



- 1 has been identifying that paraphernalia near my schools,
- 2 near my churches, various places that you would not
- 3 expect to see paraphernalia, especially to the degree
- 4 that we have seen it.
- 5 Q And in the course of your duties as a peace
- 6 officer, where have you observed these impacts of opioids
- 7 on the community?
- 8 A Citywide.
- 9 Q I'm just going to break down some of those
- 10 observations a little bit further.
- In the course of your duties as a peace officer
- 12 in Oakland, have you personally observed instances of
- 13 opioid use?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q What types of opioids have you observed being
- 16 used?
- 17 A I have observed --
- 18 MS. LUCAS: Objection, your Honor. This witness
- 19 has not been designated as an expert.
- 20 THE COURT: And what part of the question does
- 21 the objection pertain to?
- 22 MS. LUCAS: The extent that he's offering his
- 23 opinion on what types of opioids he's observing, then we
- 24 would have an objection; to the extent he's only
- 25 describing factual matters, we don't.
- 26 MR. FORAN: And if I could, your Honor, it lacks



- 1 foundation to offer testimony about what types of opioids
- 2 he's observed being used.
- 3 THE COURT: The objection is partly sustained to
- 4 this extent: The witness can describe what he observed
- 5 and -- we'll start there. The witness can describe what
- 6 he observed. Whether opinions flow from that, we'll tell
- 7 from the questions and the answers.
- 8 Please proceed.
- 9 THE WITNESS: Thank you, your Honor.
- 10 One of the things I have observed has been users
- 11 of opioids using a pill bottle that contains coins along
- 12 with pills themselves that they will shake in order to
- 13 break the pill form into a powder. From that powder,
- 14 they are able to place it into a spoon and melt it down
- 15 using a lighter, draw it up via syringe. I've also
- 16 observed subjects injecting opioids directly into their
- 17 venous system.
- 18 BY MS. McPHERSON:
- 19 Q And why do you believe you observed opioid use
- 20 in those instances?
- 21 A Due to the fact that this was an area that was
- 22 known for the trafficking of such, along with the signs
- 23 and symptoms that followed their use.
- 24 Q And in the course of your duties as a police
- 25 officer, what types of opioids specifically do you think
- 26 that you've observed being used?



- 1 A I would speak to heroin along with any kind of
- 2 pill form that may have been obtained.
- 3 Q And how often have you observed instances of
- 4 what you believe to be opioid use in Oakland?
- 5 MS. LUCAS: Objection, your Honor; foundation
- 6 and improper opinion.
- 7 THE COURT: Overruled.
- 8 You may answer.
- 9 THE WITNESS: Could you repeat the question,
- 10 ma'am?
- BY MS. McPHERSON:
- 12 Q Yes. Give me one second.
- 13 How often have you observed instances of what
- 14 you believed to be opioid use in Oakland?
- 15 A Several times. I would put it well over two to
- 16 three dozen.
- 17 Q And in the course of your duties as a peace
- 18 officer in Oakland, have you observed instances of what
- 19 you believe to be opioid overdoses in the community?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q What have you observed personally regarding
- 22 opioid overdoses in the community?
- 23 A Speaking to that, I have observed subjects
- 24 falling asleep during questioning. I have observed
- 25 subjects that were unconscious during time frames and
- 26 situations where being unconscious is inappropriate.



- 1 Q And how often have you personally observed
- 2 opioid overdoses in Oakland?
- 3 A Five to six on my own response.
- 4 Q In the course of your duties as a peace officer
- 5 in Oakland, have you observed opioid use paraphernalia in
- 6 the community?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q What type of paraphernalia associated with
- 9 opioids have you observed?
- 10 A Empty and discarded pill bottles, along with
- 11 syringes, spoons. A common thing that is often missed by
- 12 the layperson to be identified as such are -- the best
- 13 way to describe it are, like, the tea light candles, how
- 14 they come in a metal tin. Those are often given out at
- 15 clean needle dispensaries in order for somebody to draw
- 16 up in a more safe manner what they use. Those are often
- 17 discarded along with the blue rubber tourniquets that are
- 18 handed out in the same kits.
- 19 Q About how often do you observe paraphernalia
- 20 associated with opioid use?
- 21 A Every day I step out of the police department.
- 22 Q In the past seven or so years in the course of
- 23 your duties as a peace officer, have you observed any
- 24 changes or trends in opioid prevalence in the community?
- 25 MS. LUCAS: Objection, your Honor; improper
- 26 opinion, foundation.



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Page 2355
              THE COURT: Sustained as to opinion.
 1
 2
              MS. McPHERSON: May I be heard briefly, your
 3
     Honor?
              THE COURT: Yes.
 4
 5
              MS. McPHERSON: I believe I just asked him what
 6
     he had personally observed regarding changes and trends,
 7
     a yes-or-no question. And he should be able to answer
 8
     based on his percipient witness testimony.
 9
              THE COURT: You're not asking him for a yes or
10
     no, are you?
              MS. McPHERSON: That was the first question I
11
     asked him.
12
              THE COURT: Just a moment.
13
              The objection to the question as framed is
14
     sustained. You may rephrase your question.
15
              MS. McPHERSON: Thank you, your Honor.
16
         BY MS. McPHERSON:
17
              Officer Bordona, in the course of your duties as
18
19
     a peace officer, have you observed any changes or trends
20
     in opioid impacts in the community?
21
              MS. LUCAS: Same objection.
22
              THE COURT: The objection is overruled.
23
         BY MS. McPHERSON:
24
              I can repeat the question if that would be
25
     helpful as well.
26
         Α
              Yes, ma'am.
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- 1 Q In the course of your duties as a peace officer,
- 2 have you observed any changes or trends in opioid impacts
- 3 in the community?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q And what have you observed regarding changes or
- 6 trends in opioid impacts in the community?
- 7 MS. LUCAS: Same objection.
- 8 THE COURT: Overruled.
- 9 THE WITNESS: What I've observed has been an
- 10 explosion, if you will, of the amount of paraphernalia
- 11 that is observed throughout the city.
- 12 BY MS. McPHERSON:
- 13 Q Does the prevalence of opioids in the community
- 14 affect your work as a peace officer?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q And how does the prevalence of opioids in the
- 17 community affect your work as a peace officer?
- 18 A It affects it on the level of officer safety due
- 19 to our requirement during searches to place hands in the
- 20 pockets. Oftentimes this is where needles are kept, be
- 21 it capped or uncapped, along with simple things as
- 22 tripping and falling in the street. If there's an
- 23 uncapped needle in the gutter, which there typically is,
- 24 that can become an officer safety issue as well.
- 25 Q Thank you. I'm going to turn now to the Narcan
- 26 program that you mentioned earlier. I believe you



- 1 mentioned -- said the name -- can you please tell the
- 2 Court the name of the program?
- 3 A Oakland Police Department Narcan Program.
- 4 Q And who created this program?
- 5 A It was a cocreation between myself and Josh
- 6 Luftig, a PA that is at Highland Hospital -- or Alameda
- 7 County Hospital.
- 8 Q And you mentioned that Josh Luftig is a PA.
- 9 Could you describe further who Josh Luftig is?
- 10 A He is a PA that operates out of their emergency
- 11 department and is also the coordinator for the California
- 12 Bridge program.
- 13 Q What is the California Bridge program?
- 14 A The California Bridge program is a treatment
- 15 modality and resource for those wishing to stop the
- 16 opioid addiction that they have.
- 17 Q And you said that you cocreated the program.
- 18 What was your role in creating the program specifically?
- 19 A Mine was the liaison, if you will, from the
- 20 Oakland Police Department along with making sure that the
- 21 program itself fit within the policies and procedures of
- 22 our department.
- 23 Q And at a high level, please explain the OPD
- 24 Narcan program.
- 25 A The OPD Narcan program placed Narcan into the
- 26 hands of the officers on the streets along with the



- 1 refresher training on its use and identification of
- 2 opioid overdoses.
- 3 Q Which part of the OPD Narcan program has already
- 4 been implemented?
- 5 A We have implemented Phase I that is currently
- 6 operational and the -- what I can refer to as a pilot
- 7 program for Phase II.
- 8 Q And briefly what is Phase I?
- 9 A Phase I is the Narcan being in the hands of the
- 10 officers on the street along with the training for
- 11 recognition of overdose and treatment.
- 12 Q And -- excuse me. Briefly, what is Phase II?
- 13 A Phase II is the proactive deployment of Narcan
- 14 into the -- in the hands of individuals that are
- 15 determined to be, quote, at risk.
- 16 Q Which part of the OPD Narcan program have you
- 17 not yet implemented?
- 18 A Phase III.
- 19 Q And what is Phase III?
- 20 A Phase III would be what could be described as a
- 21 leave-behind program. To further explain, if an officer
- 22 were to respond to an opioid overdose and either they or
- 23 other first responders used Narcan, that officer would be
- 24 instructing the -- basically the cohabitants of where
- 25 this patient lived on recognition of signs and symptoms
- 26 along with leaving Narcan with them should this person



- 1 overdose again in the future.
- 2 Q And from your perspective as one of the creators
- 3 of this program, why was it important for officers to be
- 4 trained and able to carry Narcan?
- 5 A For me, it was knowing that it can have an
- 6 effect and actually be out there saving lives. To me, it
- 7 is no different than an officer carrying a tourniquet.
- 8 Gunshot wounds don't want to happen or don't need to
- 9 happen, just like overdoses don't need to happen. But
- 10 they are easily fixed.
- 11 Q And when did you begin this program?
- 12 A That would have been end of October 2019.
- MS. McPHERSON: And, your Honor, I'm going to
- 14 pull up a document now. And I believe Evan is our tech
- 15 person right now.
- 16 Evan, if you could please pull up exhibit
- 17 labeled P-CA-001737. And --
- 18 MS. LUCAS: Your Honor, the defense has an
- 19 objection to this document.
- 20 THE COURT: What's the objection?
- 21 MS. LUCAS: Lacks foundation. It contains
- 22 hearsay and double hearsay. It's irrelevant to Phase I.
- 23 And 352 as well as improper opinion.
- 24 THE COURT: Just a moment, please.
- 25 MS. McPHERSON: Your Honor, let me know if you
- 26 would like me to respond at this time.



Page 2360 1 THE COURT: Just a moment, please. 2 I have the document on my screen. It has not 3 yet sought to be admitted. At the moment, all that has happened is the witness has been referred to the 4 5 document. 6 The objection to the document simply being 7 referred to is overruled. You may continue your objections on a question-by-question basis as 8 9 appropriate. Let's see what the questions are. 10 Counsel may continue. 11 MS. McPHERSON: Thank you, your Honor. 12 BY MS. McPHERSON: Officer Bordona, you have the document in front 13 14 of you; is that correct? Α Yes. 15 And you've had an opportunity to look through 16 Q it? 17 Yes. 18 Α 19 Q Do you recognize this document? 20 Α Yes. 21 And what is this document? Q 22 This is a PowerPoint utilized for training 23 officers on the Narcan program. 24 Q Did you create this PowerPoint? 25 Α Yes. 26 And what was the purpose of this PowerPoint?



- 1 A The purpose was to have a visual representation
- 2 of my training. Due to my P.O.S.T. certified instructor
- 3 certification, I have to teach to the different
- 4 learning -- learning modalities that an adult can use,
- 5 one of these being visual. And that speaks to the visual
- 6 side.
- 7 Q So your training as an OPD officer has had
- 8 additional components of materials beyond what was on
- 9 this slide?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 O And were these materials -- this PowerPoint
- 12 document what was, in fact, used to train officers in the
- 13 OPD Narcan program?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Is this document maintained in OPD's records?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q And where is this document maintained?
- 18 A This is currently accessible from all sworn
- 19 members through the PowerDMS program.
- 20 Q And just for the Court, what is the PowerDMS
- 21 program?
- 22 A That is an archive of all of the training -- the
- 23 training PowerPoints, along with policies, procedures,
- 24 department general orders, chief's special orders.
- 25 Pretty much any piece of paperwork that flows through the
- 26 department that can be referred to as training or policy



- 1 is located in this database.
- 2 Q And this is the version that you used, the
- 3 Version 2.4 that's labeled on the first slide here, is
- 4 this the version that you used to train OPD officers in
- 5 the Narcan program?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 MS. McPHERSON: Your Honor, I'd move to have
- 8 this Exhibit P-CA-001737 admitted into evidence.
- 9 MS. LUCAS: Objection, your Honor. There is no
- 10 foundation that this is, in fact, a business record
- 11 underneath the evidence code. It also contains hearsay,
- 12 double hearsay, and there's no foundation for many parts
- 13 or actually all of the parts of the contents of the
- 14 document.
- 15 THE COURT: What's the purpose of moving its
- 16 admission?
- 17 MS. McPHERSON: Your Honor, we understand your
- 18 position in this case on the narrow business records
- 19 exception. To save the time of going slide by slide and
- 20 laying a foundation for each slide, I would admit it for
- 21 a nonhearsay purpose. We are admitting it for -- to
- 22 prove what OPD officers were, in fact, trained with for
- 23 the OPD Narcan program.
- The defendants have also put at issue in this
- 25 case whether the jurisdictions have taken any effort in
- 26 response to the opioid crisis. So we're putting it in



- 1 evidence to -- as well as in to showing what the
- 2 jurisdictions, specifically Oakland, did in response to
- 3 the opioid problems in the community.
- 4 MS. LUCAS: I also have a relevance objection,
- 5 your Honor, to Phase I.
- 6 MS. McPHERSON: And, your Honor, this is
- 7 directly relevant to Phase I. It goes to the scope of
- 8 the problem. We are not admitting it to show what
- 9 resources or further actions would be needed, which would
- 10 be a Phase II issue. We're admitting it to show the harm
- 11 and the existence of the public nuisance in the city of
- 12 Oakland.
- MS. LUCAS: May I be heard briefly, your Honor?
- 14 THE COURT: Yes.
- 15 MS. LUCAS: To the extent the relevance is the
- 16 scope of the problem, that directly implicates our
- 17 hearsay objection because the only parts of this
- 18 presentation that could possibly be relevant to the scope
- 19 of the problem contains hearsay for which there's also no
- 20 foundation.
- 21 THE COURT: Ms. McPherson, if you are not
- 22 admitting it for the truth of its contents, then it
- 23 proves only that the Oakland Police Department has a
- 24 Narcan training program. The officer has testified to
- 25 that. What is the relevance of this document beyond
- 26 that?



- 1 MS. McPHERSON: Your Honor, I believe it also --
- 2 that Officer Bordona testified that this is what officers
- 3 were, in fact, trained on. So it shows the materials
- 4 that officers were trained on. It lays foundation for
- 5 later testimony as well regarding what officers observed
- 6 and what Officer Bordona has observed in the city of
- 7 Oakland and provides foundation for that.
- 8 And I think just the extent of the training
- 9 materials are relevant to the scope of the problem and
- 10 what officers were trained in.
- 11 THE COURT: I don't think the People can have it
- 12 both ways. If it is not offered for the truth of its
- 13 contents, all it establishes is that Oakland Police
- 14 Department has a Narcan training program, to which the
- 15 officer has already testified.
- The objections to the admission of the document
- 17 itself are sustained.
- MS. McPHERSON: Thank you, your Honor.
- 19 Evan, you may take the document down.
- 20 BY MS. McPHERSON:
- 21 Q Officer Bordona, in whole, when do you train
- 22 Oakland police officers to use Narcan?
- 23 A Sorry. Could you repeat the question?
- 24 Q Yes. In whole, when do you train OPD officers
- 25 to use Narcan?
- 26 A When they have recognized or determined to have



- 1 recognized an opioid overdose.
- 2 Q Are OPD officers trained to use Narcan to
- 3 respond to all types of drug overdoses?
- 4 A No.
- 5 Q Are OPD officers trained to use Narcan to revive
- 6 someone who has overdosed exclusively on
- 7 methamphetamines?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q Are OPD officers in this program trained to use
- 10 Narcan as a treatment, a diagnostic tool, or both?
- 11 A Typically, it can be used for both.
- 12 Q And can you explain that further?
- 13 A Due to the fact that Narcan in and of itself is
- 14 utilized and only works on opioid overdoses, if you have
- 15 a patient that is unconscious, unresponsive, with
- 16 decreased respirations and you give them Narcan, when
- 17 they wake up, you have, in fact, determined that an
- 18 opioid is what they overdosed on.
- 19 Q What categories of OPD officers were trained
- 20 using the materials that we saw but were not admitted?
- 21 A Any officer that leaves the police station in
- 22 the capacity of being on the street in patrol.
- 23 Q And do you have an estimate of how many
- 24 employees in OPD received Narcan training?
- 25 A Anywhere between 250 to 300.
- 26 Q And why do you think, in your role as the



- 1 creator of the program, there was a need to train that
- 2 many OPD employees in Narcan administration?
- 3 A Due to the fact, through my experience in
- 4 talking with other officers, if you are, in fact, a
- 5 police officer that works in the city of Oakland, you
- 6 will see an overdose at some point.
- 7 Q Who above you in the chain of command supported
- 8 the OPD Narcan program?
- 9 A Everyone from the chief at the time down.
- 10 Q And you mentioned the chief. Describe any role
- 11 the chief played in authorizing the OPD Narcan program.
- 12 A That would have been in July of 2019. I was
- 13 conducting an -- a meeting, if you will, with our chief
- 14 and our top brass -- basically, assistant chief, deputy
- 15 chiefs -- explaining my vision for this program and the
- 16 Oakland Police Department. From there the chief, Anne
- 17 Kirkpatrick, tasked me as being the person in charge for
- 18 this program.
- 19 Q Where was the initial Narcan for the program
- 20 obtained?
- 21 A That was through a donation from Highland
- 22 Hospital and the California Bridge program.
- 23 Q Did you obtain Narcan from other sources for the
- 24 program?
- 25 A Yes.
- 26 Q And I will get to that. I'm going to again pull



Page 2367 up the document. Just at this point pulling it up, not 1 seeking to admit it. 2 3 So, Evan, please pull up P-CA-001087. 4 MS. LUCAS: Your Honor, we also have objections 5 to this document on foundation, hearsay, double hearsay, relevance to Phase I --6 7 THE COURT: Ms. Lucas, I do not need to hear 8 from you on a document unless and until anyone seeks to 9 admit it. Please hold your objections until we -- I have 10 some idea why the document is being proffered. document is being referred to is not in itself 11 objectionable except in rare cases. If it's a rare case, 12 by all means. But please otherwise hold your objection 13 14 until I understand what the questions are. 15 What is this document number again, please? MS. McPHERSON: This is document -- Exhibit 16 Number P-CA-001087. 17 18 THE COURT: Please proceed. 19 MS. McPHERSON: Thank you. BY MS. McPHERSON: 20 21 Officer Bordona, do you have the document in Q 22 front of you? 23 Α Yes. 24 Q Do you recognize this document? 25 Α Yes. What is this document? 26 0



- 1 A This is my -- the grant application to obtain
- 2 further restock and supply of Narcan.
- 3 Q And I think you started to answer there in
- 4 saying that this was your document. Did you create this
- 5 grant application?
- A I coauthored, if you will, with Josh Luftig.
- 7 Q Did you submit this grant application?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q And did you submit this grant application on
- 10 behalf of the Oakland Police Department?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q What approval did you receive to submit this
- 13 grant application?
- 14 A This would have been approval through the -- my
- 15 immediate chain of command on the training section side
- 16 of my chain of command.
- 17 Q And to submit this document on behalf of the
- 18 Oakland Police Department, did it need to represent the
- 19 views of the Oakland Police Department?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 MS. McPHERSON: Your Honor, move to have this
- 22 document admitted into evidence.
- 23 MS. LUCAS: Your Honor, we object to the
- 24 foundation of this document, and, in particular, those
- 25 first four paragraphs contain hearsay, double hearsay for
- 26 which he has no foundation, and improper opinion. It's



- 1 also irrelevant to Phase I. He's already testified that
- 2 the Oakland Police Department has a Narcan program.
- 3 THE COURT: For what purpose is the document
- 4 being proffered?
- 5 MS. McPHERSON: For the -- for several
- 6 nonhearsay purposes.
- 7 First, proving the police department applied for
- 8 a Narcan grant, which is separate than just having a
- 9 Narcan program as Officer Bordona had previously
- 10 testified.
- 11 It also represents the position of the Oakland
- 12 Police Department. It's not being admitted for the truth
- 13 of that but just admitted as to the position of the
- 14 Oakland Police Department when it applied for the Narcan
- 15 and with respect to what it viewed as the need to respond
- 16 to the scope of the opioid crisis.
- 17 Officer Bordona is here testifying as a fact
- 18 witness, and this document is a document that he can
- 19 authenticate and has authenticated and laid foundation
- 20 for regarding the views of the Oakland Police Department.
- 21 MS. LUCAS: May I be heard briefly?
- THE COURT: Yes.
- 23 MS. LUCAS: There's been no testimony about
- 24 where this data came from. In fact, at his deposition,
- 25 he testified that somebody else gave it to him. And to
- 26 the extent this is being offered for Oakland police's



- 1 understanding of the issue, that is, in fact, for the
- 2 truth.
- 3 MS. McPHERSON: Your Honor, may I respond to
- 4 that?
- 5 THE COURT: Just a moment, please.
- 6 Ms. McPherson, what's not clear to me is the
- 7 same confusion, if you will, between what the People say
- 8 that they are proffering this for and what the People, in
- 9 fact, mean to proffer this for.
- 10 If it is not being offered for the truth of its
- 11 contents, what is its relevance beyond establishing that
- 12 the City of -- the Oakland Police Department approved --
- 13 applied for and received a grant to support the provision
- 14 of Narcan, to which the officer has already testified?
- 15 What does the document add to that testimony if it's not
- 16 admitted for the truth of its contents?
- 17 MS. McPHERSON: Your Honor, it also speaks to
- 18 the need for Narcan at the time, the amount of Narcan
- 19 that the department is seeking. I don't think that the
- 20 specifics at issue -- we're not seeking to admit this
- 21 document for the part that Ms. Lucas has concerns with,
- 22 but it simply goes to what defendants have repeatedly put
- 23 at issue in this case, which is that the jurisdictions
- 24 themselves do not have a belief that there's an opioid
- 25 problem and have not responded as if there's an opioid
- 26 problem. And this document goes beyond simply that they



- 1 applied for a grant, and it goes to the views as written
- 2 down and formally submitted in a grant application of the
- 3 Oakland Police Department.
- 4 I believe the views of the Oakland Police
- 5 Department are different than the truth of the matter of
- 6 those views.
- 7 THE COURT: The objection to the admission of
- 8 the document is sustained. When the witness is
- 9 cross-examined on this issue or the earlier issue of the
- 10 Narcan training, if there is something in the
- 11 cross-examination that makes the contents somehow
- 12 additionally relevant, the issue of the admission of the
- 13 documents may be revisited.
- But at the moment, since the proffer is that
- 15 they are not offered for the truth of their contents,
- 16 they have no other relevance. And both because the
- 17 document itself contains hearsay and because, under a 352
- 18 analysis, admitting the entire document to establish a
- 19 fact to which the witness has already testified is more
- 20 likely to be confusing rather than helpful, the objection
- 21 is sustained. You may revisit the question on cross if
- 22 that becomes appropriate.
- 23 Please proceed.
- MS. McPHERSON: Thank you, your Honor.
- 25 And, Evan, if could you zoom in. I want to look
- 26 at the first sentence of the document.



Page 2372 BY MS. McPHERSON: 1 2 I will read the first sentence. And, Officer 3 Bordona, you can make sure that I am reading it 4 correctly. 5 It says, "The Oakland Police Department (OPD) is 6 an urban police force in Oakland, California, in Alameda 7 County, a community highly impacted by the opioid crisis." 8 9 Do you see that sentence? 10 Yes. Α MS. LUCAS: Objection, your Honor. 11 objection was sustained. 12 13 THE COURT: Assuming the witness confirms that he can see that or heard what you read, what's the 14 15 question, counsel? MS. McPHERSON: I am going to ask him to -- I 16 didn't understand your ruling to mean that I could not 17 ask any further documents about this exhibit, even if it 18 19 was not admitted into evidence. 20 THE COURT: That's not a response to my 21 question. 22 What is your question based upon what you have 23 just read to the witness? 24 MS. McPHERSON: Yes, your Honor, and apologies. 25 My question is going to be whether he wrote it, lay a



foundation for that sentence, and whether that is his

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Page 2373 belief as well. 1 2 MS. LUCAS: In which case, that's improper 3 opinion. THE COURT: In the interest of time, the Court 4 5 interposes its own objection. I thought the witness 6 expressly testified that he believes that there is an 7 opioid issue in Oakland that he has been addressing for 8 years. 9 What does this add other than an opportunity for 10 objection? 11 MS. McPHERSON: I can move on, your Honor. THE COURT: Please. 12 MS. McPHERSON: Thank you. 13 And, Evan, you may take the document down. 14 15 Thank you. 16 BY MS. McPHERSON: Officer Bordona, approximately -- approximately 17 how many times did OPD officers use Narcan in the initial 18 19 months of the program? From the beginning of November until the end of 20 21 the year -- so December 31st -- there were 20 deployments 22 or uses of Narcan. 23 Was this level of Narcan usage surprising to 0 24 you?



Did you track whether Narcan administrations

25

26

Α

It was.

Page 2374 were successful? 1 2 Α Yes. 3 And are you able to approximate what percentage of OPD Narcan administration were successful since the 4 5 beginning of the program? 16 reversals. 6 Α And what percentage, would you approximate? Approximately 80 percent. 8 Α 9 And what is your understanding of the term "successful" here? 10 11 Α Meaning a subject --THE COURT: Ms. McPherson, how is this relevant 12 to Phase I? 13 MS. McPHERSON: Your Honor, I can move on. 14 People believe that the scope of the problem and the 15 success rate through the Narcan reversal show the 16 existence of the scope of the problems with respect to 17 18 opioid overdoses in the community. 19 THE COURT: 20 uses is relevant, and I have no 20 issue with that. Whether or not Narcan was successful, I 21 do not understand how that's in any way relevant to 22 Phase I as opposed to Phase II. 23 Please move on. 24 MS. McPHERSON: Thank you, your Honor. 25 BY MS. McPHERSON: Officer Bordona, please explain whether the OPD 26



- 1 Narcan program is the only Narcan program in Oakland.
- 2 A It is not.
- 3 Q What other programs deploy Narcan?
- 4 A All ambulances have Narcan available for their
- 5 paramedics to use, along with the Oakland Fire
- 6 Department, or OFD, also has Narcan available for their
- 7 paramedics to utilize.
- 8 Q And describe the typical circumstance when you,
- 9 as an OPD officer, would respond to an opioid overdose
- 10 rather than those other entities or departments.
- 11 A Common times will be what is referred to as a
- 12 flag-down, which refers to a citizen or subject that
- 13 observes a black-and-white police car in the vicinity
- 14 waves their hands to get our attention and then directs
- 15 us to a subject that is either unconscious or
- 16 nonresponsive.
- 17 Q During the COVID-19 pandemic, has the OPD Narcan
- 18 program continued?
- 19 A It has with -- with less ferocity, if you will.
- 20 Q Can you explain that further, what you mean?
- 21 A With that, when the pandemic first impacted our
- 22 department, we scaled back our call activity to minimize
- 23 contact outside of essential calls for service.
- 24 Q And have you continued to track Narcan use
- 25 during the pandemic?
- 26 A To the best of my ability, yes.



- 1 Q Describe any continued impact of opioids in your
- 2 day-to-day work since the OPD Narcan program began.
- 3 A To speak to the impact to my work, it has made
- 4 it difficult due to the fact that I am not -- I have
- 5 other duties as well. This is a -- for lack of a better
- 6 term, a secondary assignment from my primary.
- 7 Q And what do you see now when it comes to the
- 8 impact of opioids on the community during the pandemic?
- 9 MS. LUCAS: Objection; relevance and improper
- 10 opinion.
- 11 THE COURT: Overruled.
- 12 You may answer.
- 13 THE WITNESS: Could you restate the question,
- 14 ma'am.
- 15 BY MS. McPHERSON:
- 16 Q Of course. What do you see now when it comes to
- 17 the impact of opioids on the community during the
- 18 pandemic?
- 19 A From the best I can gather, it has not changed
- 20 it. There may be an increase. However, I'm unable to
- 21 assess that directly.
- 22 MS. McPHERSON: Thank you, Officer Bordona. No
- 23 further questions on direct at this time.
- 24 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. McPherson.
- 25 Cross-examination of the officer?
- MS. LUCAS: Thank you, your Honor.



Page 2377 * CROSS-EXAMINATION * 1 2 BY MS. LUCAS: 3 Officer Bordona, my name is Amy Lucas. represent Janssen and Johnson & Johnson. I think we can 4 5 make this fairly short. 6 You talked about your experiences treating 7 people who had overdosed, and you talked a little bit 8 about clues that you saw at the scene. But even if you 9 see clues at the scene, there's no way for you to say 10 with any certainty what substance someone overdosed on, 11 correct? Correct. 12 Α 13 Even if you recognize signs and symptoms of an 14 opioid overdose, you can't decipher what specific opioid caused it, can you? 15 No, I would say not specifically. 16 And you also can't tell if that person took 17 another illicit or prescription drug besides opioids in 18 19 addition, correct? 20 MS. McPHERSON: Objection; foundation. 21 THE COURT: Overruled. 22 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, ma'am. Could you 23 repeat the question? 24 BY MS. LUCAS: 25 Sure. You also can't tell if the person took 2.6 another illicit or prescription drug besides opioids,



- 1 correct?
- 2 A That would depend on signs and symptoms that are
- 3 presented by the patient. It could be difficult, but
- 4 again, I wouldn't be able to fully assess without doing a
- 5 direct assessment myself.
- 6 Q But even if you're doing a direct assessment and
- 7 you see signs of an opioid overdose, you don't know if
- 8 they took something else besides opioids too, correct?
- 9 A That's correct.
- 10 Q And you're also aware that non-opioid drugs,
- 11 like methamphetamine, are being laced with opioid-like
- 12 illicit fentanyl in Oakland, correct?
- 13 MS. McPHERSON: Objection; foundation.
- 14 THE COURT: You may answer if you can.
- 15 THE WITNESS: I am aware that there are
- 16 combinations often taken.
- 17 BY MS. LUCAS:
- 18 Q And those are combinations of things like
- 19 methamphetamine and cocaine mixed with illicit fentanyl,
- 20 correct?
- 21 A That could be.
- 22 Q And, in fact, sometimes there are situations
- 23 where a person doesn't even know what they've overdosed
- 24 on, correct?
- 25 A That could be possible, yes.
- 26 Q And you don't know whether overdoses in Oakland



Page 2379 are related to prescription or illicit opioids, correct? 1 2 MS. McPHERSON: Objection; foundation and 3 misstates his prior testimony. THE COURT: Overruled. 4 5 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, ma'am. Could you repeat. 6 7 BY MS. LUCAS: I said you don't know whether overdoses in 8 9 Oakland are related to prescription opioids or illicit 10 opioids, correct? 11 Not unless I am physically on scene for that specific call. 12 13 Right. And even when you are on scene for a 14 specific all and even if you see clues, you can't say with certainty what substance somebody overdosed on, 15 correct? 16 Α Not typically. 17 Officer Bordona, you'd agree that there's a 18 Q 19 large population of methamphetamine users in Oakland, right? 20 21 Objection; foundation. MS. McPHERSON: 22 THE COURT: Sustained as to foundation. 23 BY MS. LUCAS: Officer Bordona, you've seen in your -- in the 24 25 course of your duties that there are individuals in 2.6 Oakland who use methamphetamine, correct?



Page 2380 Α Yes. 1 2 And you have noted that, in the course of Q Okay. 3 your duties, that you formed the belief that Oakland has 4 a large population of methamphetamine users? 5 Α I do believe there are a large population of methamphetamine users. 6 7 And in your experience as an officer for Oakland Police Department, the biggest problem that you've 8 9 observed in Oakland involved drugs that are available for use in intravenous form, correct? 10 MS. McPHERSON: Objection; vague. 11 THE COURT: Overruled. 12 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, ma'am. Could you 13 14 repeat. BY MS. LUCAS: 15 Yes. In your experience as an officer for 16 Oakland Police Department, the biggest problem that you 17 observed in Oakland involved problems that are drugs that 18 19 are available for intravenous use, correct? 20 Α Yes, that's correct. And those drugs include heroin and illicit 21 22 fentanyl, correct? 23 I could not speak to that. Α 24 You were deposed in this action, correct? Q 25 Α Yes. And you told the truth at your deposition? 26 0



Page 2381 Α Yes. 1 2 MS. McPHERSON: Objection. We will see where we 3 get, but he was deposed as the Oakland PMK, not in his 4 personal capacity. 5 MS. LUCAS: Stan, could you put up Officer Bordona's deposition page 66, lines 2 through 11. 6 7 "QUESTION: Can you identify any drug that you think is most affecting Oakland? 8 9 "ANSWER: Any drug that is available for use 10 in intravenous form. "QUESTION: And which drugs with those be? 11 "ANSWER: Heroin is probably what I would say 12 is the most well known. Fentanyl is available 13 14 to be used that way. You have got any form 15 of -- any form of an illicit drug that is able to be melted down into a liquid and drawn up 16 into a syringe." 17 BY MS. LUCAS: 18 19 Q Now, I want to talk briefly about --20 You can take that down. Thank you. 21 -- about the Narcan program that you just told 22 the Court about at Oakland Police Department. 23 you said that the groundwork for the program began 24 somewhere around September of 2019, correct? 25 Α The -- the idea and the -- the meeting with the 26 chiefs happened in, I believe it was, June or July, and



- 1 the official groundwork, being my offering of the
- 2 trainings for, yes, that would speak to right around
- 3 September.
- 4 Q Okay. And then it launched around end of
- 5 October, November 2019, correct?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q Now, Narcan can be used for any opioid, whether
- 8 it's an illicit opioid like heroin or fentanyl or a
- 9 prescription opioid, right?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q And it can also be used if someone overdoses on
- 12 a non-opioid, like methamphetamine that's been laced with
- 13 an opioid like illicit fentanyl, correct?
- MS. McPHERSON: Objection; relevance.
- 15 THE COURT: Ms. Lucas, what's the -- what is
- 16 this relevant to?
- 17 MS. LUCAS: It's relevant to the fact that
- 18 Narcan is being used on people who don't even know that
- 19 they have injected opioids.
- 20 THE COURT: And that has not been established
- 21 because...
- 22 MS. LUCAS: What do you mean? I'm not following
- 23 your question.
- 24 THE COURT: You have already asked the officer
- 25 whether he can tell with certainty precisely what was
- 26 used. The officer has already testified that Narcan, in



- 1 a sense, has a reverse confirmation. If they suspect an
- 2 opioid, they will use it. If it works, it was an opioid.
- 3 Is there something else that you are trying to
- 4 establish?
- 5 MS. LUCAS: Only that the program is also used,
- 6 in fact, on those individuals.
- 7 THE COURT: Please proceed.
- 8 BY MS. LUCAS:
- 9 Do you need the question again, Officer Bordona?
- 10 A Yes, ma'am. Thank you.
- 11 Q Sure. Narcan can also be used if someone
- 12 overdoses on a non-opioid, like methamphetamine that's
- 13 been laced with illicit fentanyl, correct?
- 14 A Reversing the fentanyl ingestion, yes.
- 15 Q Correct. So that means Narcan can be used on
- 16 people who unknowingly use opioids, correct?
- 17 A Referred to as an accidental overdose? Yes.
- 18 Q And those accidental overdoses would be that
- 19 they had no idea that they had ingested an opioid,
- 20 correct?
- MS. McPHERSON: Objection; speculation.
- 22 THE COURT: Ms. Lucas, asked and answered.
- 23 Please move on.
- 24 BY MS. LUCAS:
- 25 Q Now, Officer Bordona, you are responsible for
- 26 keeping the statistics regarding the number of times that



Page 2384 Oakland PD has used Narcan, right? 1 2 Α Yes. 3 And when officers at Oakland PD administer Narcan, they're required to log the information and also 4 5 contact you to report it, correct? 6 Α Yes. 7 But the officers are not required to document what type of opioid they believed was in the person's 8 9 system that caused the overdose, correct? 10 MS. McPHERSON: Objection; beyond the scope of 11 direct. THE COURT: Overruled. 12 THE WITNESS: Just to make sure I answer 13 14 correctly, ma'am, could you repeat. BY MS. LUCAS: 15 Of course. Officers are not required to 16 document what type of opioid they believed was in the 17 person's system that caused the overdose, correct? 18 19 Α They are not required. 20 Q And as of the day that you were deposed in this action, Oakland PD's Narcan supply was sufficient, 21 22 correct? 23 MS. McPHERSON: Objection. Phase I. 24 THE COURT: Sustained. 25 BY MS. LUCAS: 26 Q For Narcan, correct?



Page 2385 Α Yes. 1 2 Q And if you need more, you can get it, correct? 3 Α Yes. MS. LUCAS: Thank you for your time, 4 5 Officer Bordona. No further questions. My colleagues 6 may have some for you. 7 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Lucas. 8 Any other defendant with questions for the 9 officer? 10 MR. STAMPFL: Yes, your Honor. Karl Stampfl for the Allergan defendants, please. 11 * CROSS-EXAMINATION * 12 13 BY MR. STAMPFL: Officer, my name is Karl Stampfl. I represent 14 15 the Allergan defendants in this case. Now, you testified on direct about the opioid 16 overdoses to which you've responded. I just want to make 17 sure. Among those overdoses, you have certainly seen 18 19 indications that the individual was shooting heroin, 20 correct? 21 Under certain circumstances, yes. 22 And you've certainly seen indications that the 23 person was using illicit fentanyl, correct? That would be difficult to determine. It would 24 Α 25 depend on what was seen with the subject. 26 Q Let me ask you this. My client's opioid is



- 1 called Kadian.
- 2 Am I correct that you can't confirm that a
- 3 single one of the individuals who overdosed tested
- 4 positive for Kadian?
- 5 A That was -- that would not speak to my level of
- 6 expertise. That would be our criminalistics lab.
- 7 Q So you would not be able to confirm that a
- 8 single one of those overdoses involves Kadian, correct?
- 9 A I would not.
- 10 MR. STAMPFL: Thank you. That's all I have.
- 11 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Stampfl.
- 12 Any other defendants with questions?
- 13 MR. FORAN: Yes. Very briefly, your Honor.
- * CROSS-EXAMINATION *
- 15 BY MR. FORAN:
- 16 Q Good morning, Officer Bordona.
- 17 A Hello, sir.
- 18 Q Now, in addition to your responsibilities with
- 19 respect to the Narcan program, you have also worked on
- 20 criminal investigations on behalf of the OPD, correct?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q And during your time at the OPD, you've worked
- 23 on over a hundred investigations; is that right?
- 24 A I believe so, yes.
- 25 MS. McPHERSON: Objection; beyond the scope of
- 26 direct.



- 1 THE COURT: Mr. Foran, I assume this is going to
- 2 become relevant at some point?
- 3 MR. FORAN: Yes. This is going to be relevant
- 4 in terms of the number that involved opioids and the
- 5 number of those that are relevant to prescription
- 6 opioids.
- 7 THE COURT: Please move on, Mr. Foran. Ask your
- 8 questions. Let's see where this goes.
- 9 MR. FORAN: Oh. Thank you, your Honor.
- 10 BY MR. FORAN:
- 11 Q Of those hundred investigations, about half
- 12 involved drugs; is that correct?
- 13 A I believe so.
- 14 Q And of those investigations, about 20 to 25
- 15 involved opioids?
- 16 A Is that coming from a statistic? I wouldn't be
- 17 able to speak to that myself without looking at the
- 18 numbers.
- 19 Q Well, that was your testimony when you were
- 20 deposed in February of last year, correct?
- 21 A Then yes.
- 22 Q And of those 20 to 25 that involved opioids, you
- 23 don't know how many involved prescription opioids; is
- 24 that correct?
- 25 A Yes.
- 26 MS. McPHERSON: Same objection. Beyond the



- 1 scope of direct as to criminal investigations.
- 2 THE COURT: The objection as beyond the scope is
- 3 overruled. But, Mr. Foran, please avoid repetition of
- 4 testimony already given.
- 5 MR. FORAN: Yes, your Honor. That's all I have
- 6 on that point. Just one more quick issue.
- 7 BY MR. FORAN:
- 8 Q Officer, you are aware of the existence of
- 9 counterfeit prescription opioid pills in Oakland,
- 10 correct?
- 11 A I'm aware they are out there.
- 12 Q Yeah. You're aware that there are pills that
- 13 are manufactured to replicate prescription opioid pills,
- 14 correct?
- 15 A Yes, I'm aware.
- 16 Q And sometimes they are dyed the same color as
- 17 prescription opioid pills, correct?
- MS. McPHERSON: Objection; foundation.
- 19 THE COURT: Overruled.
- THE WITNESS: Can you ask one more time, sir.
- 21 BY MR. FORAN:
- 22 Q Sure. Yes, yes. So sometimes these counterfeit
- 23 pills are dyed to be a color that would make them look
- 24 like the kind of pill that might come from a -- that
- 25 might be a prescription opioid; is that right?
- 26 A I'm aware of this, yes.



Page 2389 And sometimes they are even stamped with a 1 number to indicate dosage or make them look genuine? 2 3 THE COURT: Mr. Foran, the question is are they made to look exactly like an original. Is there a reason 4 5 to ask five questions on so straightforward a subject? 6 MR. FORAN: No, your Honor. Thank you. 7 I have no further questions. THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Foran. 8 9 Does any other defendant have questions for the 10 officer? MR. JAMES: I thank Officer Bordona for his 11 service to his community and have no questions for him. 12 13 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. James. Reexamination? 14 MS. McPHERSON: Just briefly a few questions, 15 your Honor. 16 * REDIRECT EXAMINATION * 17 BY MS. McPHERSON: 18 19 Officer Bordona, from a police officer 20 perspective in Oakland, does it matter what type of opioid causes an overdose? 21 22 No, ma'am. 23 And why not? Q 24 It doesn't change our treatment. 25 MS. McPHERSON: Thank you, your Honor. further questions. 26



Page 2390 THE COURT: May the officer be excused? 1 2 MS. McPHERSON: From the People's perspective, 3 yes. MS. LUCAS: From the defense perspective, yes. 4 5 And thank you, Officer Bordona, for your time and service. 6 7 THE WITNESS: Thank you, ma'am. THE COURT: Officer Bordona, you may stand down, 8 9 sir, and you are excused. Thank you very much for your 10 time today. THE WITNESS: Thank you, your Honor. 11 THE COURT: We will take the morning break at 12 this time. We are adjourned until 20 to 11:00. Thank 13 14 you. (A brief recess is taken.) 15 THE COURT: All right. We are back on the 16 17 record. Mr. Pendell has confirmed that there is one 18 19 additional document that was previously admitted into 20 evidence that appears on ROA 6702. That is document 21 P-0921. And to the extent it has not been previously 22 formally admitted, that document is admitted. 23 The People are calling as their next witness 24 Dr. Anna Lembke. 25 Ms. Fitzpatrick? 26 MS. LAURENDEAU: Excuse me for one moment, your



- 1 Honor. Amy Laurendeau. May I just make a quick point on
- 2 Exhibit 921. I just think there's an ambiguity on the
- 3 record that needs to be cleared up on Exhibit 921.
- 4 During Mr. Robinson's examination of Dr. Quick,
- 5 the Court exhibit -- or the Court admitted Exhibit 921 as
- 6 a one-page document, a printout screenshot, essentially,
- 7 of the California opioid overdose dashboard. And I
- 8 believe 921 has also been admitted as the dashboard
- 9 itself and the underlying data. So I do think there's an
- 10 ambiguity there that should be clarified for the record.
- 11 THE COURT: Thank you. Pursuant to the
- 12 stipulation contained in ROA 6702 -- well, let me get
- 13 more clarification from Mr. Pendell.
- 14 Mr. Pendell, with respect to this document 0921,
- 15 without going back through my notes, precisely what
- 16 portion was identified when the document was first
- 17 admitted and what about the dashboard is being admitted
- 18 other than the page that was identified at the time of
- 19 the witness's testimony?
- 20 MR. PENDELL: Well, your Honor, it was my
- 21 understanding the entire dashboard was in. And
- 22 Dr. Stafford relied on the dashboard extensively and used
- 23 far more than just a single page from that dashboard.
- 24 THE COURT: That's my recollection as well. So
- 25 my assumption is that at this time the entire dashboard,
- 26 which has the Exhibit Number 0921, is coming in.



Page 2392 Ms. Laurendeau, is there an issue with what the 1 parties intended under ROA 6702? 2 3 MS. LAURENDEAU: There is not, your Honor. don't object to the admissibility of the dashboard in its 4 5 entirety. This is really just more of a clerical issue I 6 was raising. At page 635 of the consolidated trial 7 transcript when Mr. Robinson was examining Dr. Quick, he 8 asked to admit and the Court admitted what was referred 9 to as Exhibit 921. 10 And the Court stated, "I admitted the one page that had been shown on the screen to the doctor." That 11

13 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. I appreciate

15 P-CA-0921 which constitutes the entire California Opioid

the clarification. What is admitted today, then, is the

16 Overdose Surveillance Dashboard as identified in

17 ROA 6702. Thank you.

12

14

P-CA-000921 in its entirety was received in

19 evidence.)

20 MR. ROBINSON: Thank you.

is Exhibit 921 as admitted.

21 THE COURT: Ms. Fitzpatrick?

MS. FITZPATRICK: Thank you, your Honor. We

23 call Dr. Anna Lembke, who was here. I saw her.

THE COURT: Good afternoon. Are you with us?

THE WITNESS: Yes, I am. Can you not see me?

26 THE COURT: Good morning. I can now.



Page 2393 Madam Clerk, would you swear the witness, 1 2 please. 3 THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly state that the testimony you 4 5 shall give today in this matter now pending before this Court will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but 6 7 the truth, so help you God? THE WITNESS: Yes, I do. 8 9 10 ANNA LEMBKE, MD 11 called as a witness by and on behalf of the plaintiff, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified 12 as follows: 13 THE CLERK: Please state your full name and 14 spell your last name for the record. 15 16 THE WITNESS: Anna Lembke, L-E-M-B-K-E. THE CLERK: Thank you. 17 * DIRECT EXAMINATION * 18 19 BY MS. FITZPATRICK: 20 Q Good morning, Dr. Lembke. Can you tell the 21 Court your current position? 22 I am professor of psychiatry and addiction 23 medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine. I am 24 medical director of addiction medicine, chief of the 25 Addiction Medicine Dual Diagnosis Clinic, and program 2.6 director for our addiction medicine fellowship.



- 1 Q And, Dr. Lembke, we worked together to prepare
- 2 some slides for this case, correct?
- 3 A That is correct.
- 4 Q If we can pull up the first slide.
- 5 And for ease, Dr. Lembke, we're going to rely on
- 6 the slides to go through some of your qualifications in
- 7 this matter.
- 8 Can you tell the Court what your education is?
- 9 A I did my undergraduate at Yale University. Then
- 10 I got my medical degree from Stanford University. I did
- 11 two years of pathology, a year of internal medicine at
- 12 Highland Hospital in Oakland. And I did a psychiatry
- 13 residency here at Stanford and a fellowship in mood
- 14 disorders before joining the faculty here at Stanford.
- 15 Q And when did you join the faculty at Stanford?
- 16 A It was 2003.
- 17 Q And are you licensed to practice medicine?
- 18 A Yes, I am.
- 19 Q And from when?
- 20 A I'm licensed to practice medicine from -- 1995
- 21 was the year I graduated.
- 22 Q In what areas do you practice?
- 23 A I'm a psychiatrist. I also have a courtesy
- 24 appointment in team medicine. And my area of focus is
- 25 addiction as well as deprescribing, helping people who
- 26 are dependent on chemicals like opioids to slowly and



- 1 safely get off of them.
- 2 Q Are you board-certified in any areas?
- 3 A I am. I am board-certified in psychiatry and
- 4 neurology and also in addiction medicine.
- 5 Q And as part of your appointment at Stanford, do
- 6 you teach medical students?
- 7 A I do.
- 8 Q And when did you begin to teach medical students
- 9 at Stanford University?
- 10 A Well, I began actually when I was a -- a medical
- 11 student myself as a TA, and then essentially continued on
- 12 in that capacity, joining the faculty, which is the
- 13 classic three-legged stool type of appointment, part
- 14 clinical work, part scholarly work, and part teaching.
- 15 And I've been teaching medical students and residents for
- 16 the past 25 years.
- 17 Q In what subjects do you teach medical students
- 18 and residents?
- 19 A I teach many different aspects related to mental
- 20 health. I teach about addiction in all its various
- 21 forms. I have taught extensively on the opioid epidemic,
- 22 including the problem of misleading messaging that has
- 23 influenced prescribing in medicine. I teach on the
- 24 overlap between addiction, dependence, and pain. I teach
- 25 about the neuroscience of addiction.
- 26 Q And looking at this slide, Dr. Lembke, and your



- 1 related experience, can you tell the Court what diplomate
- 2 and adviser to the American Board of Addiction Medicine
- 3 is?
- 4 A Diplomate simply means that I'm board-certified
- 5 in that discipline, and I have specialized training. I
- 6 sat for an exam and passed that exam. Adviser means that
- 7 I sat on various committees of the American Board of
- 8 Addiction Medicine in a senior leadership role.
- 9 Q Is that the same for the diplomate of the
- 10 American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology?
- 11 A A diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry
- 12 and Neurology means I have specialty training in
- 13 psychiatry and neurology. And I sat for the exam, I
- 14 passed the exam, and I'm board-certified.
- 15 Q And looking at the next one, chief of addiction
- 16 medicine, dual diagnosis clinic, and medical director,
- 17 department of psychiatry at Stanford University, what is
- 18 the dual diagnosis clinic?
- 19 A Dual diagnosis is a term used to identify
- 20 individuals who struggle with substance use disorders and
- 21 other addictions as well as a co-occurring mental health
- 22 disorder. It also increasingly has come to mean
- 23 individuals who struggle with some kind of chemical
- 24 dependency or chemical addiction as well as chronic pain.
- 25 So our clinic is devoted to serving those
- 26 patients who struggle with mental -- with multiple mental



- 1 health issues, substance use issues, chemical dependency,
- 2 and also, increasingly, chronic pain.
- 3 Q And what are your responsibilities as the chief
- 4 of addiction medicine in the dual diagnosis clinic?
- 5 A I'm responsible in some sense for all the
- 6 patients that come through our clinic. I'm responsible
- 7 for hiring and mentoring young faculty, for teaching
- 8 residents, medical students, visiting scholars, for
- 9 ensuring that the administration of the clinic and the
- 10 oversight of the clinic is done in a safe and
- 11 conscientious way consistent with medical standards.
- 12 So it's both an important clinical service role
- and an important teaching/mentoring/administrative
- 14 leadership role.
- 15 Q And you're a medical director for the deputy of
- 16 psychiatry. Is that a separate appointment at Stanford?
- 17 A I'm sorry. I'm medical director for addiction
- 18 medicine within the department of psychiatry. It's a
- 19 special designation acknowledging my expertise in
- 20 addiction medicine and my leadership skills in this arena
- 21 developing services for patients who get their care at
- 22 Stanford Health services. It's become an increasingly
- 23 important priority for Stanford to create these services
- 24 because of the opioid epidemic.
- 25 Q And as part of your experience at Stanford
- 26 University, do you -- have you done studies and research



- 1 into addiction caused by opioids?
- 2 A Yes, I have.
- 3 Q And, specifically, have you done research and
- 4 studies into addiction caused by prescription opioids?
- 5 A Yes, I have.
- 6 Q And have you taught medical students and
- 7 residents on issues related to opioid addiction?
- 8 A Yes, I have.
- 9 Q And how long have you been doing that?
- 10 A I've been doing that for about a decade.
- 11 Q And in addition to your role as teacher, you
- 12 also maintain, I think you said, a clinical practice; is
- 13 that right?
- 14 A My clinical practice is under the auspices of
- 15 Stanford University School of Medicine. This is not a
- 16 private clinical practice the way that those words might
- 17 imply. I'm on the faculty at Stanford. I'm a paid
- 18 employee of Stanford University. I'm on their university
- 19 faculty. And part of my role is to provide clinical
- 20 services.
- 21 Q And are part of the clinical services that you
- 22 provide at Stanford University related to those who
- 23 suffer from opioid use disorder?
- 24 A That is correct.
- 25 Q Let me go back to your teaching. I talked a
- 26 little bit about your teaching at Stanford University.



- 1 Do you also teach those outside of Stanford University on
- 2 issues related to opioid addiction?
- 3 A Yes, I do. I've given many lectures to medical
- 4 schools and universities all around the country on topics
- 5 related to opioid addiction and the opioid epidemic,
- 6 including the misleading messaging that is in question
- 7 here today.
- 8 Q And I was just about to ask you have you
- 9 taught -- outside of Stanford University, have you taught
- 10 about the pharmaceutical opioid industry's marketing and
- 11 promotion of opioids?
- 12 A Yes, I have.
- 13 Q And have you taught on that topic in
- 14 relationship to the pharmaceutical opioid industry's
- 15 marketing of opioids and the opioid epidemic?
- 16 A Yes, I have. I've taught that in multiple
- 17 different contexts here at Stanford, in business school,
- 18 in law school, medical school, undergraduate classes.
- 19 I've also been invited to Duke University, Johns Hopkins
- 20 University, to many other universities to discuss this
- 21 topic.
- 22 Q And have you done some research and teaching on
- 23 the pharmaceutical opioid industry's partnership with or
- 24 financial support for organizations that have influence
- 25 on how medicine is practiced?
- 26 A Yes, I have.



- 1 Q And have you taught that both in Stanford and
- 2 outside of Stanford?
- 3 A Yes, I have.
- 4 Q And when you've been teaching on this topic, do
- 5 you also include your firsthand experience with the
- 6 pharmaceutical opioid industry's marketing and promotion
- 7 of opioids?
- 8 A Yes, I do. I am of the generation that was the
- 9 primary target and recipient of the messaging. And so I
- 10 do have firsthand, lived experience of how those messages
- 11 were received and how they impacted medical care.
- 12 Q Can you tell the Court a little bit about your
- 13 firsthand experience with the pharmaceutical opioid
- 14 industry's marketing and promotion of opioids?
- 15 A Yes, I can.
- 16 Early in my career after completing my training,
- 17 I was mandated by the state board of -- the Medical Board
- 18 of California in 2001 to attend an all-day, mandatory
- 19 seminar on the treatment of pain. I was mandated to do
- 20 that in order to keep my license, as were all other
- 21 practicing physicians in the state of California.
- 22 I remember being surprised that I was being
- 23 mandated to go to a continuing medical education course
- 24 that was outside of psychiatry and mental health. That
- 25 was, in my experience, unprecedented. And at that course
- 26 the messages were that there is an epidemic of,



- 1 quote-unquote, undertreated pain in the United States,
- 2 that essentially we physicians were responsible for the
- 3 epidemic of undertreated pain and that the reason for our
- 4 responsibility had to do with our fear of prescribing
- 5 opioids and our, quote-unquote, opioidphobia.
- 6 Then the majority of the day consisted of
- 7 lectures on how to start opioids in patients with pain,
- 8 which opioids to use, how to titrate them, that they were
- 9 effective in treatment of chronic pain and many other
- 10 pain states, and that as long as we physicians were
- 11 prescribing them to patients in pain, it was very
- 12 unlikely that the patients would get addicted.
- 13 And that messaging continued -- I would just
- 14 add, because it's very important for 2001, that we were
- 15 also taught that pain is the fifth vital sign so that we
- 16 were required to ask every patient whether or not they
- 17 were experiencing pain, whether or not there were any
- 18 outward visible manifestations of pain in that patient,
- 19 or whether or not the patient had sought out medical care
- 20 expressly for pain treatment.
- 21 And those messages were continued throughout the
- 22 entire last two decades.
- 23 Q And were you --
- MR. BRODY: Your Honor, excuse me. Steve Brody
- 25 for Janssen.
- 26 Move to strike the last answer due to lack of



- 1 foundation. And the question was about firsthand
- 2 experience with the industry's marketing and promotion,
- 3 and Dr. Lembke described a California Medical Board
- 4 meeting that she attended.
- 5 THE COURT: Just a moment.
- 6 The objection is overruled.
- 7 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 8 Q Dr. Lembke, in addition to the 2001 meeting that
- 9 you just described, did you continue to have firsthand
- 10 experience in receiving marketing and promotional
- 11 messages concerning opioids from the pharmaceutical
- 12 opioid industry through your career?
- 13 A Not in the last year or so.
- 14 Q Prior to -- I'm asking after the single seminar
- 15 we talked about, did you continue after that to see
- 16 marketing and promotional messages in your own personal
- 17 career?
- 18 A Yes. I continued to see those same marketing
- 19 and promotional messages throughout the first decade of
- 20 the 2000s and I think, really, well into the decade
- 21 between 2010 and 2020.
- 22 Q And in addition to your own personal experience
- 23 in seeing and receiving those messages, have you done
- 24 research and teaching on the pharmaceutical opioid
- 25 industry's continuing impact on generations of doctors?
- MR. KABA: Objection; vague as to "the



Page 2403 pharmaceutical opioid industry," your Honor. 1 2 THE COURT: Overruled. 3 THE WITNESS: Yes. I have continued to teach on the impact of the misleading messaging of the 4 5 pharmaceutical opioid industry. And I do define that 6 concept in my report. 7 BY MS. FITZPATRICK: 8 And have you also taught on the pharmaceutical 9 opioid industry's publications in the peer-reviewed 10 medical literature and how that has influenced physicians' opioid prescribing practices? 11 Yes, I have. Α 12 Have you testified before Congress, Dr. Lembke? 13 14 Yes, I have. And when did you testify before Congress? 15 I don't recall the exact date. I would have to 16 look at my CV. 17 Can you tell us what you testified about? 18 19 Α This was the -- I testified multiple times Yes. 20 having to do with the impact of the flooding of society 21 with prescription opioids as a causative element in the 22 current opioid epidemic. 23 I've testified on ways that I think the 24 government can help redress these harms, for example, by 25 supporting more education for medical students,



residents, and physicians on the nature of the

26

- 1 interrelationship between opioid dependence, opioid
- 2 addiction, and chronic pain, including the creation of
- 3 addiction medicine in fellowships.
- 4 I've testified multiple times on the need to
- 5 create a better workforce to target the problem of opioid
- 6 addiction and the opioid epidemic and to use academic
- 7 detailing as opposed to pharma-funded messaging in order
- 8 to essentially reeducate physicians to reverse the
- 9 miseducation they've been receiving for the last
- 10 20 years.
- 11 Q And in addition to your testimony before
- 12 Congress, I think you mentioned to me a couple minutes
- 13 ago that you taught at Duke University or have lectured
- 14 at Duke University; is that correct?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Do you remember when that was?
- 17 A I believe that was last year.
- 18 Q And can you tell us what you lectured on at Duke
- 19 University?
- 20 A That was a class specifically on the ways that
- 21 the pharmaceutical industry's packaging and messaging of
- 22 the evidence can influence the ways that doctors
- 23 prescribe opioids.
- 24 Q And who invited you to speak at that Global
- 25 Health Institute at Duke University?
- 26 A That was the director of the course.



- 1 Q And who was the target audience? Who was in the
- 2 audience for that lecture?
- 3 A They were Duke undergraduates.
- 4 Q And I want to turn to your clinical experience
- 5 in a second, but all of the teaching that we've just been
- 6 talking about and your testimony before Congress and the
- 7 like, was that all done separate and apart from your work
- 8 as an expert here on behalf of the People of the State of
- 9 California?
- 10 A Yes. That's been done separate.
- 11 Q But was it all on topics that are related to
- 12 your expert opinion and your testimony here today?
- 13 A Much of it is related, yes.
- 14 Q Let's go back to your clinical practice. Can
- 15 you describe for the Court what your current clinical
- 16 practice is comprised of?
- 17 A Our clinic now sees patients with all manner of
- 18 addiction. And these are people who are addicted to
- 19 drugs and alcohol, including prescription drugs, as well
- 20 as people who have what we call process addiction. These
- 21 are addictions to things that are not drugs, like
- 22 gambling, pornography, video games.
- 23 Increasingly, our clinic has also had to fill in
- 24 the gap to treat patients who have become physiologically
- 25 dependent on opioids through a prescription but do not
- 26 meet strict criteria for an opioid use disorder or opioid



- 1 addiction but nonetheless need professional support
- 2 tapering down or off of opioids. These are the
- 3 individuals that I think have really fallen through the
- 4 cracks in terms of our efforts in the last five years or
- 5 so to help people harmed by the opioid epidemic.
- 6 And by that I mean that we have a growing number
- 7 of individuals who seek out our clinical care to help
- 8 them lower their opioid doses or get off of opioids.
- 9 These are individuals who are on very high doses of
- 10 opioids, many of them for decades through a doctor's
- 11 prescription, and have become physiologically dependent
- 12 to the point that, even though the opioids are not
- 13 helping their pain and, in fact, harming them, they are
- 14 unable to taper the opioids because of neuroadaptation
- 15 and extreme symptoms of withdrawal.
- So we work with these individuals to slowly and
- 17 incrementally taper them down on their doses and, when we
- 18 can, to get them completely off of opioids.
- 19 Q Now, we're going to go into some of those
- 20 concepts of dependence and addiction a little bit later,
- 21 but going back to your clinical practice, can you
- 22 estimate the number of patients you've treated for
- 23 conditions related to OUD, or opioid use disorder, or
- 24 dependence on opioids?
- 25 A I've treated thousands of patients with opioid
- 26 addiction.



- 1 Q Are most of those patients from the vicinity
- 2 around Stanford University?
- 3 A Most of them are from the vicinity, but we have
- 4 patients who come from very far away, from the -- you
- 5 know, the Central Valley, from the Sierras. With the
- 6 increasing use of telehealth since COVID and quarantine,
- 7 we are now seeing patients who live in Southern
- 8 California because they're able to see us virtually.
- 9 Q Okay. And while you're working with the
- 10 patients that you've described that either have OUD or
- 11 dependence on opioids to address those issues, do you
- 12 also work in developing treatment plans for their pain
- 13 conditions as well?
- 14 A Yes. We very much prioritize integrating pain
- 15 treatment with their chemical dependency or opioid
- 16 addiction treatment. We've established groups
- 17 specifically for the growing cohort of patients that we
- 18 have who struggle with severe chronic pain.
- 19 We have a cognitive behavioral therapy group for
- 20 patients with chronic pain. These are individuals in our
- 21 clinic who are being treated for opioid dependence or
- 22 opioid addiction who have chronic pain and need treatment
- 23 for that. So that's a psychological intervention.
- We also, when appropriate, use medications like
- 25 antidepressants to help patients with their chronic pain.
- 26 There are some antidepressants that have been shown to



- 1 have mild benefit in helping patients with those
- 2 problems.
- 3 Q Dr. Lembke, several minutes ago you used a term
- 4 "deprescribing." Can you tell the Court what that means?
- 5 A There are more than 10 million Americans who
- 6 take opioids every day, many of whom at very -- many of
- 7 whom have done so for years and decades, some at
- 8 extremely high doses.
- 9 And those individuals are not benefiting and are
- 10 being harmed and, in fact, are at high risk for
- 11 accidental overdose and addiction with those doses yet
- 12 cannot get off. So they come to our clinic voluntarily
- or are referred by their prescribing doctors for help
- 14 with tapering down and off of opioids.
- 15 Importantly, these are individuals who are not
- 16 meeting the strict DSM-5 criteria for opioid use
- 17 disorder, otherwise known as addiction. They are
- 18 physically dependent. They have always taken their
- 19 opioids as prescribed.
- 20 Q Dr. Lembke, do you continue to treat individuals
- 21 with OUD and dependence to prescription opioids today?
- 22 A Yes. It's the bulk of the practice that we do.
- 23 Probably about 50 percent of our patients struggle with
- 24 opioid addiction or opioid dependence.
- 25 Q And when did you first start treating
- 26 individuals suffering from OUD, opioid use disorder, or



- 1 dependence on opioids?
- 2 A In the early 2000s, around 2002, 2003, I started
- 3 seeing patients -- sorry. That's my phone. I'll turn it
- 4 off later.
- 5 I started seeing patients, some of whom were
- 6 coming in saying that they struggled with opioid
- 7 dependence or opioid misuse or opioid use disorder.
- 8 I also had a patient around 2004-2005 who died
- 9 of an opioid overdose. I was treating her for something
- 10 else. According to her husband, she had been taking her
- 11 opioids exactly as prescribed by her doctor. And so, in
- 12 that sense, saying that she died of an opioid overdose is
- 13 really a misnomer because she did not overdose. She was
- 14 taking her medications as prescribed.
- 15 I remember in the early days I had a mother I
- 16 was treating for depression who lost her son to methadone
- 17 who had been prescribed methadone for pain and was taking
- 18 it as prescribed.
- 19 So it was -- it really began at least to come to
- 20 my attention around 2003-2004. I think it's important to
- 21 point out, though, that I was in a position to observe
- the harm from opioids much earlier than other physicians
- 23 because of the nature of my work.
- 24 MR. KABA: I am going to object and move to
- 25 strike everything after "in the early 2000s, around 2002,
- 26 2003" as both a narrative and incorporating hearsay.



Page 2410 MS. FEINSTEIN: Join in that objection, your 1 2 Honor. THE COURT: Just a moment. The question was 3 answered after -- or by the sentence, "I started seeing 4 5 patients, some of whom were coming in saying that they 6 struggled with opioid dependence or opioid misuse or 7 opioid use disorder." Everything after that was 8 nonresponsive to the question and is stricken. 9 BY MS. FITZPATRICK: Doctor, moving on, do you prescribe opioids for 10 11 pain? I do not prescribe opioids for pain, no. 12 Α Do you prescribe opioids for the treatment of 13 OUD or dependence on opioids? 14 Yes, I prescribe the opioid buprenorphine for 15 the treatment of opioid use disorder. 16 And can you explain to the Court why you would 17 Q write a prescription for an opioid for the treatment of 18 19 OUD or opioid dependence? Buprenorphine is evidence-based treatment for

- 20
- 21 opioid use disorder. And so in practicing evidence-based
- 22 medicine, I use that tool in appropriate patients for the
- treatment of opioid use disorder/opioid addiction. 23
- 24 And you just used the term "evidence-based
- 25 treatment" or "evidence-based medicine" in that answer.
- 26 Can you explain what that is to the Court?



- 1 A So evidence-based medicine is the grounding of
- 2 our practice of medicine in scientific evidence. We all
- 3 strive to practice evidence-based medicine, and I do so
- 4 myself.
- 5 Q And what is the evidence that you're referring
- 6 to there?
- 7 A There are multiple placebo-controlled trials
- 8 across decades and continents, showing that opioid
- 9 agonist therapy, like buprenorphine, in the treatment of
- 10 opioid addiction is effective. And so I base my practice
- 11 on that experience and on that -- I should say on that --
- 12 on that literature, on that evidence.
- 13 Q And does the use of buprenorphine to treat OUD
- 14 or dependence on opioids raise any safety concerns for
- 15 those patients?
- 16 A Yes, of course. An opioid is an opioid is an
- 17 opioid. And people can get addicted to the opioid
- 18 buprenorphine. They can misuse it. In rare instances
- 19 they can overdose on it. It needs to be very carefully
- 20 considered, carefully monitored, used very judiciously.
- 21 It's a dangerous medicine.
- Q Why do you use it then?
- 23 A I use it as harm-reduction strategy in
- 24 individuals who essentially have brains that are
- 25 fundamentally changed by exposure to opioids. And to
- 26 understand that, it's really necessary to understand the



- 1 neuroscience behind how prolonged exposure to an opioid
- 2 can cause neuroadaptive changes and in some instances are
- 3 irreversible.
- 4 So patients to whom we give opioids to treat
- 5 opioid use disorder, although on the face of it
- 6 counterintuitive, is the way that we allow them to
- 7 reestablish baseline homeostasis of the brain so that
- 8 they're not constantly craving opioids, and that they can
- 9 reengage in other recovery work, reengage with their
- 10 families, reengage with their professional lives, and
- 11 just generally pursue a life worth living.
- 12 Q And we are going to get into the details of the
- 13 neuroscience that you just referenced there, but let me
- 14 ask you a couple of more questions about your background
- 15 first.
- In addition to the positions that you described,
- 17 do you also have a position at Stanford at the department
- 18 of anesthesiology and pain medicine?
- 19 A Yes. I have a courtesy appointment in pain and
- 20 anesthesia at Stanford.
- 21 Q And what is a courtesy appointment?
- 22 A Courtesy appointment is recognition of faculty
- 23 contributions in different dimensions -- clinical
- 24 service, teaching, scholarly work -- to a department
- 25 outside of the department in which an individual has
- 26 their primary appointment. So my primary appointment is



- 1 in psychiatry, but I have a courtesy appointment in pain
- 2 anesthesia.
- 3 O And do you consult with your colleagues at
- 4 Stanford about treating patients who are taking
- 5 prescription opioids for pain?
- 6 A Yes, on a regular basis. For many years I
- 7 actually went once a week to the pain clinic and was
- 8 embedded with my pain colleagues there on helping them
- 9 tackle this problem of patients coming in dependent,
- 10 addicted, patients with chronic pain.
- 11 And I continue to do that work primarily now
- 12 located here in our building in psychiatry but also lots
- 13 of what we call curbside consults on inpatients. So
- 14 there's lots of collaboration and communication between
- 15 myself and my pain colleagues.
- 16 Q Why is it necessary to collaborate between
- 17 people like you who deal with those who are suffering
- 18 from addiction or OUD or dependence and those who are
- 19 managing pain?
- 20 A As a result of the opioid epidemic, pain
- 21 treatment and opioid addiction treatment have become
- 22 inextricably intertwined.
- 23 Q Have you, in preparation for the work that
- 24 you've done both at Stanford outside of this courtroom
- 25 and in this courtroom, looked at the body of medical and
- 26 scientific literature that is related to OUD and



Page 2414 dependence on opioids? 1 2 I have been following that literature for Yes. 3 15 to 20 years. Q And --4 5 Move to the next one, Jon. 6 And have you personally contributed to that body 7 of literature? 8 Yes, I have. Α 9 Can you tell the Court about the book that you have published on that topic? 10 So I wrote this book published by Johns Hopkins 11 University Press in 2016 called Drug Dealer, MD: 12 Doctors Were Duped, Patients Got Hooked, and Why It's So 13 14 Hard to Stop. 15 The title, Drug Dealer, MD, is intentionally provocative because my goal was to really communicate to 16 my colleagues within medicine as well as persons outside 17 the practice of medicine how it was that a whole 18 19 generation of doctors were duped into overprescribing 20 opioids for minor and chronic pain conditions, leading to 21 the opioid epidemic. 22 And was that book an extension of both the 23 research and teaching you had done on some of those 24 topics prior to 2016?



And how did you go about doing the research for

25

26

Α

Yes, it was.

- 1 that book?
- 2 A I read the medical literature. I did interviews
- 3 with multiple stakeholders inside of medicine, patients
- 4 and providers alike. I synthesized all of that
- 5 information, including my own personal experience, of the
- 6 misleading messaging, and I wrote a book trying to
- 7 genuinely understand how it was that well-educated and
- 8 well-intentioned prescribers were engaging in care that
- 9 was actually harming patients.
- 10 Q Did you publish that book -- or write and
- 11 publish that book before you were retained as an expert
- 12 for any government entity in opioid litigation?
- 13 A I had no contact with lawyers regarding material
- 14 in this book prior to writing or publishing this book in
- 15 2016.
- 16 Q And can you tell us some of the topics that you
- 17 covered in that book that are pertinent to the testimony
- 18 you're here to offer today?
- 19 A I emphasize in the book that the opioid epidemic
- 20 is a complex and multifactorial phenomenon, that there
- 21 are many -- many individuals who are culpable, including
- 22 physicians like myself; including patients who lied to
- 23 their doctors about how they were using medicine;
- 24 including the regulatory bodies that were meant to ensure
- 25 standards of care, like the Federation of State Medical
- 26 Boards, the Joint Commission, the FDA.



- And I also implicate the opioid pharmaceutical industry for the myths that they propagated under the quise of science that essentially duped doctors into
- 4 believing that opioid prescribing in the way that it was
- 5 being encouraged was evidence-based when, in fact, there
- 6 was not evidence to support that kind of prescribing.
- 7 Q And, Doctor, we're going to come back to some of
- 8 those messages and some of that evidence in relation to
- 9 these defendants, but let me just move through your
- 10 qualifications.
- 11 The BRAVO protocol, what is that?
- 12 A So about five years ago, shortly around the time
- 13 that the 2016 CDC guidelines came out urging doctors to
- 14 prescribe fewer opioids; to prescribe more judiciously;
- 15 to not use opioids first line for pain; to, when using
- 16 opioids, use the lowest dose for the shortest duration.
- 17 What happened was that many doctors went running
- 18 scared and were refusing then to treat these patients,
- 19 leaving us with de facto opioid refugees, patients with
- 20 chronic pain who had been on opioids for a long period of
- 21 time now wandering clinic to clinic trying to find
- 22 somebody to help them.
- 23 So the BRAVO protocol was designed specifically
- 24 to educate doctors about, number one, the importance of
- 25 helping these patients and not abandoning them because of
- 26 medicolegal concerns, and then specifically giving them a



- 1 compassionate patient-centered approach to how to taper
- 2 opioid-dependent chronic pain patients to lower doses.
- 3 So this is a protocol to educate physicians
- 4 specifically for that population of chronic pain patients
- 5 physically dependent on opioids for whom a taper is
- 6 indicated.
- 7 Q Thank you, Doctor.
- 8 In addition to -- we've talked about your
- 9 clinical practice; we've talked about your teaching.
- 10 Have you ever been interviewed on camera about
- 11 the opioid epidemic?
- 12 A Yes, I have. I was recently interviewed on the
- 13 HBO documentary called The Crime of the Century, and
- 14 there have been other instances.
- 15 Q Now, let me go back to some of your experience
- 16 in treating patients. When did you begin to treat
- 17 patients with substance use disorders generally?
- 18 A When I first began my practice of psychiatry, I
- 19 was not interested in treating patients with addiction.
- 20 It's not something that I had received much, if any,
- 21 education on in medical school or even residency. I did
- 22 not consider addiction at that time to be something
- 23 within the purview of medical treatment.
- 24 And it was really only as I began my practice,
- 25 my early career practice in 2000-2001, that I recognized
- 26 that my patients were not getting better in large part



- 1 because I was ignoring their substance use problems.
- 2 So I decided to reeducate myself on that front
- 3 and ultimately shifted my practice to specialize in
- 4 treatment of patients with substance use disorders and
- 5 other addictions.
- 6 Q Were there any changes in the types of
- 7 substances that your patients were struggling with
- 8 between the early 2000s and about 2011-2012?
- 9 A Yes. So as I said before, in the early 2000s I
- 10 started seeing more and more patients coming in who were
- 11 addicted to prescription opioids or misusing or dependent
- 12 on prescription opioids.
- 13 Q And did that continue to increase during the
- 14 first decade of the 2000s?
- 15 A Yes, it did.
- 16 Q And has that remained steady or continued to
- increase in the second decade of the 2000s?
- 18 A It continued to increase. And now, as I said,
- 19 our clinic is probably about 50 percent of these legacy
- 20 pain patients who need help with either opioid dependence
- 21 or opioid use disorder, all of whom began with a
- 22 prescription opioid for the treatment of pain.
- 23 Q And what do you mean by a legacy pain patient?
- 24 A This is a controversial term, but essentially
- 25 what it refers to is individuals who have been adversely
- 26 impacted by the overprescribing of opioids for chronic



- 1 pain, and now we have created this generation of chronic
- 2 pain patients who are also dependent on or addicted to
- 3 opioids. So it's a -- they're a legacy of the paradigm
- 4 shift in medicine that led to overprescribing.
- 5 Q And in formulating your opinions in this case on
- 6 the causes of the prescription opioid crisis, have you
- 7 relied on published medical literature?
- 8 A Yes, I have.
- 9 Q And how have you gone about researching or
- 10 selecting published medical literature for your opinions?
- 11 A I've monitored the major academic databases --
- 12 PubMed, MEDLINE, Google Scholar -- to keep up on papers
- 13 that are written regarding opioids, chronic pain,
- 14 overdose, death, whatever is out there. I have
- 15 intentionally tried to look at this from all angles.
- I specifically tried to look for studies showing
- 17 evidence that opioids are effective in the treatment of
- 18 chronic pain. And I have not been able to find those
- 19 studies, but I have looked hard for those.
- 20 I have also looked hard for studies showing that
- 21 addiction is rare in patients who are prescribed opioids
- 22 for the treatment of chronic pain, and I have been unable
- 23 to find those studies as well.
- 24 Q And in addition to the published literature, did
- 25 you also look at government data and government
- 26 publications as part of your research in this case?



- 1 A What do you mean by government data or
- 2 government publications?
- 3 Q Things that are published by the United States,
- 4 the California governments concerning opioids and opioid
- 5 use?
- 6 A Yes. So I kept up on the latest publications
- 7 from the CDC, for example.
- 8 Q And have you also looked -- let me ask you, were
- 9 those the same types of information that you looked at
- 10 prior to becoming a retained expert in opioid litigation
- 11 for your research and publications concerning opioid use,
- 12 opioid use disorder and the causes of them?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q And did you apply any different standards to the
- 15 kind of research that you did on government publications
- 16 and medical and scientific literature in this case than
- 17 you did in the research you have done prior to being
- 18 retained as an expert?
- 19 A No.
- 20 Q And in this case, in addition to that type of
- 21 information, did you look at the defendants' own
- 22 documents?
- 23 A Yes, I did.
- Q Okay. And did you specifically look at
- 25 documents that were produced by the four defendant
- 26 families in this case?



- 1 A Yes, I did.
- 2 Q Okay. And can you tell me how you went about
- 3 selecting documents from the defendants that you relied
- 4 on for your opinions that are specific to the report you
- 5 generated in this case?
- 6 A Yes. So I was approached in 2017 by Don
- 7 Arbitblit from Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein asking
- 8 me if I was willing to be involved in federal opioid
- 9 litigation. This was after the publication of my book.
- 10 And I initially expressed reservation about
- 11 that. I hadn't done that type of work before. I wanted
- 12 to be certain that my involvement would be pursuant to
- 13 the truth of the matter and not to some other end. And I
- 14 was reassured about the desire to explore the truth in
- 15 this case.
- 16 So in my work with Lieff Cabraser Heimann &
- 17 Bernstein in the MDL litigation, I was given documents by
- 18 Don and his team to review, and I reviewed those
- 19 documents. I then asked for additional documents as I
- 20 felt I needed them as I went along in this case.
- 21 Q And what was the process of requesting and being
- 22 given access to additional documents from the defendants
- 23 in this case?
- 24 A Well, for example, I might review a document
- 25 that they gave to me, and I would say to them, "Well, how
- 26 was this document actually used? You know, who



- 1 actually -- who was the audience for this document?" Or
- 2 the document might reference an article, and then I would
- 3 go look up that article and try to see whether or not
- 4 what the document actually purported to do with that
- 5 article was what that article actually showed.
- 6 Q And how did you satisfy yourself that you had
- 7 seen the relevant documents from the defendants that you
- 8 needed in order to properly reach your opinions in this
- 9 case?
- 10 A After reviewing multiple documents, there were
- 11 recurring themes that kept coming up again and again.
- 12 And based on saturation of those themes, I felt I had
- 13 seen an adequate number of documents to form an opinion.
- 14 Q Just briefly outline the methodology that you
- 15 used to gather the information, synthesize it, and
- 16 generate your report in this case.
- 17 A Yeah. My opinion is based on all of the medical
- 18 literature that I had reviewed. It is based on my review
- 19 of the documents produced by the defendants in this case.
- 20 It's based on 25 years of clinical experience and
- 21 teaching as well as my own research that I did for the
- 22 book Drug Dealer, MD.
- 23 Q And did you rely on more than just marketing
- 24 studies generated by the defendants in preparing your
- 25 report and reaching your opinions in this case?
- 26 A Yes.



- 1 Q And by virtue of your training, your experience,
- 2 and your research, do you have a specialized knowledge in
- 3 how defendants' marketing -- the prescription opioid
- 4 industry's marketing of their opioids affected
- 5 prescribing practices by physicians?
- 6 A I do think I have a specialized knowledge here,
- 7 which is both a combination of my scholarly work,
- 8 reviewing documents, reading the medical literature, as
- 9 well as my experiential knowledge of having been the
- 10 recipient of these marketing messages, of being in that
- 11 generation of individuals trained in the late '90s and
- 12 early '00s -- my generation is, in essence, the
- 13 overprescribing generation.
- So because I come from inside of medicine, I am
- 15 a medical doctor, and I was trained in that era, I
- 16 contextually understand how these marketing messages
- 17 landed with prescribers.
- 18 Q Thank you, Doctor.
- 19 Okay. With that background, let me turn to some
- 20 basic medical 101 -- hold that -- medical 101.
- 21 Can you start by telling us what are opioids?
- 22 A Opioids are any molecule that binds to the
- 23 opioid receptor and stimulate that receptor.
- 24 Q And are there different types of opioids?
- 25 A Yes. Opioids can be naturally occurring,
- 26 meaning that they begin with the opium poppy -- for



- 1 example, morphine, codeine, thebaine. They can also be
- 2 what's called semisynthetic, meaning that they begin with
- 3 a naturally occurring opioid from the opioid poppy and
- 4 then they are altered in some way in the laboratory. And
- 5 most of the Schedule II prescription opioids are
- 6 semisynthetic.
- 7 And opioids can also be purely synthetic which
- 8 means they do not need an opium poppy precursor and are
- 9 made entirely in a laboratory, and that would include
- 10 fentanyl and methadone.
- 11 Q And, Doctor, what are prescription opioids?
- 12 A Prescription opioids are opioids that can be
- 13 obtained through a doctor's prescription and dispensed by
- 14 a pharmacy.
- 15 Q And what is what's been called in this case
- 16 illicit opioids?
- 17 A Illicit opioids are opioids that are obtained in
- 18 any way that is not prescribed.
- 19 Q Do prescription opioids and illicit opioids have
- 20 the same effect on the brain?
- 21 A Yes. As I said before, an opioid is an opioid.
- 22 It doesn't matter if it comes in a pill bottle or you buy
- 23 it on the street. Opioids work the same way on the
- 24 brain.
- 25 Q And can opioids that are prescribed by a
- 26 physician to treat pain conditions cause addiction and



- 1 dependence?
- 2 A Yes. Opioids that are prescribed to treat pain
- 3 and used as prescribed can lead to the disease of opioid
- 4 addiction.
- 5 Q Is there any reason to -- well, let me ask this:
- 6 Are prescription opioids any less likely to cause
- 7 addiction in those who take them than illicit opioids?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q And we've talked earlier today in going through
- 10 your qualifications about addiction and dependence.
- 11 Can you explain to the Court what addiction is.
- 12 A Addiction is a complex biopsychosocial disease
- 13 that can be simply defined as the continued compulsive
- 14 use of a substance despite harm to self and/or others.
- 15 Q And is that the same as opioid use disorder, or
- 16 OUD?
- 17 A Yes. That is broadly speaking the same as
- 18 opioid use disorder, opioid addiction. They're
- 19 essentially synonyms. Opioid addiction is a more
- 20 commonly understood lay term, but it is not the
- 21 terminology used in DSM-5, which uses opioid use disorder
- 22 instead.
- 23 Q And you also referenced earlier dependence on
- 24 opioids.
- 25 Is that different from OUD?
- 26 A So dependence was singled out when the DSM-IV



- 1 went to the DSM-5. Previously, the word "opioid
- dependence" was used synonymously with the word "opioid
- 3 addiction," but starting with the DSM-5, it was
- 4 distinguished as referring exclusively to physiologic
- 5 dependence, separate from opioid addiction per se.
- 6 Most individuals who become addicted to opioids
- 7 are strictly dependent on opioids. But individuals can
- 8 be dependent on opioids, taking them even as prescribed,
- 9 without meeting the DSM-5 criteria for opioid use
- 10 disorder.
- 11 So these are related phenomenon but, as of the
- 12 DSM-5, separate and distinct.
- 13 Q And what is tolerance to opioids?
- 14 A Tolerance is needing more and more of an opioid
- 15 to get the same analgesic response. So importantly, when
- 16 we are talking about tolerance, we're not talking about
- 17 habituation to side effects; we're talking about needing
- 18 more opioids over time to get the same pain relief as the
- 19 individual got originally.
- 20 The majority of patients, based on clinical
- 21 experience, will develop tolerance to opioids if they
- 22 take them every day for a period of time. What exactly
- 23 that period of time is is not known and probably differs
- 24 from individual to individual. But in my experience,
- 25 most individuals who take an opioid every day for two to
- 26 four weeks will develop some degree of tolerance, needing



- 1 more of that opioid over time to get the same effect.
- 2 I also think it's important to highlight that
- 3 tolerance that develops to the analgesic effect of the
- 4 opioid occurs more quickly than the tolerance that
- 5 develops to the respiratory depressant effects of the
- 6 opioids. So opioids decrease breathing, decrease heart
- 7 rate. That's why people can die of them. They fall
- 8 asleep and don't wake up again.
- 9 The central problem with opioids is that
- 10 individuals will develop tolerance to their analgesic
- 11 effects, and that tolerance to the analgesic effects will
- 12 occur more quickly than to the respiratory depressant
- 13 effects, which is why, even when taking the opioids as
- 14 prescribed, patients can die from them.
- 2 Can you explain to the Court what happens in the
- 16 brain when someone develops OUD.
- 17 A In order to understand what happens in the
- 18 brain, when an individual becomes addicted to any
- 19 addictive substance, it's important to talk about some of
- 20 the central findings in the neuroscience in the past 75
- 21 years. And the first is that pain and pleasure are
- 22 colocated.
- 23 And by that I mean that the same part of the
- 24 brain that processes pain also processes pleasure, and
- 25 pain and pleasure work like a balance, like a
- 26 teeter-totter on a central fulcrum. So when I experience



- 1 pleasure, my balance tips to one side; when I experience
- 2 pain, it tips to the other side.
- 3 The fundamental difference between the
- 4 substances that are addictive, like opioids, and those
- 5 that are not is how much they tip the balance to the side
- 6 of pleasure. And when they do that, they release an
- 7 enormous amount of dopamine in the brain for reward
- 8 pathways. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter discovered in
- 9 the human brain in 1950s, and it allows neurons to
- 10 communicate because neurons are separated by a little gap
- 11 called a synapse, and neurotransmitters are what bridge
- 12 that gap for fine-tuned control of brain circuitry.
- One of the most important rules governing this
- 14 pleasure-pain balance is that it wants to remain level,
- 15 what neuroscientists call homeostasis. And the brain
- 16 will work very hard to preserve or restore neutrality.
- 17 So when I ingest an opioid, my balance tips to
- 18 the side of pleasure, I get a big release of dopamine in
- 19 the brain's reward pathways, and immediately the brain
- 20 will put the equivalent of weight on the pain side of the
- 21 balance to bring it level again.
- Those weights metaphorically represent what's
- 23 called neuroadaptation, the downregulation of my own
- 24 dopamine transmission.
- 25 Now, the central thing to understand is that the
- 26 balance will not stop here once it obtains neutrality.



- 1 It will continue to tip an equal and opposite amount to
- 2 the side of pain, and that is a comedown or withdrawal.
- 3 If I wait long enough after a single use, those weights
- 4 come off again and the neutrality or homeostasis is
- 5 restored.
- To understand what happens in the brain when
- 7 people become addicted is to understand what happens when
- 8 that exercise, abusing that addictive opioid, occurs a
- 9 second time. With repeated use, the initial effects to
- 10 the pleasure side is weaker and shorter and the
- 11 aftereffect to the side of pain is longer and stronger.
- 12 In other words, the balance remembered, and now it needs
- 13 more weight on the pain side in order to restore
- 14 neutrality.
- 15 If I continue to use the opioid for days to
- 16 weeks to months to years, I eventually collect so much
- 17 weight on the pain side of my balance that, when I am not
- 18 using, I have a balance that is chronically tipped to the
- 19 side of pain. I have a different brain than the brain I
- 20 started with.
- This is why individuals with addiction will
- 22 relapse to substance use even months after they've
- 23 stopped using, even when their lives are better, they've
- 24 got their jobs back, they've got their spouse back,
- 25 they're walking around with a balance tipped to the side
- 26 of pain.



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Page 2430
              Now, theoretically, if they wait long enough --
 1
 2
     and I can tell you, it can take months and even years for
 3
     all of that neuroadaptive weight to come off the
 4
     balance -- then eventually homeostasis will again be
 5
     restored.
 6
              Unfortunately, what we have learned is that,
 7
     with opioid addiction, there are individuals who may
 8
     never actually be able to restore homeostasis, that they
 9
     may, in fact, have a broken balance such that, even after
10
     months or years of not using opioids, they continue to
     experience craving, insomnia, irritability, intrusive
11
12
     thoughts of wanting to use.
13
              And those are the individuals to whom --
               (Whereupon audio was lost by the court reporter.
14
15
     The Court recessed until 1:30 p.m.)
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Page 2431 1 AFTERNOON SESSION 2 3 THE COURT: Good afternoon, everybody. We are back on the record. 4 5 Dr. Lembke, I remind you that you remain under 6 oath throughout your testimony in this case. It appears 7 that you may be on mute; so please unmute yourself. 8 And, Counsel, you may continue. 9 MS. FITZPATRICK: Thank you, your Honor. 10 BY MS. FITZPATRICK: 11 Dr. Lembke, when we broke, you had been testifying about certain people that you said had a 12 13 broken balance. Even after months or years of not using 14 opioids, they continued to experience cravings. And can you tell us how people who suffer from that type of OUD 15 are treated? 16 There are many different types of treatment for 17 people with opioid addiction. It's a biopsychosocial 18 19 disease; so there are biopsychosocial treatments. 20 But the treatment that I was speaking of before 21 we broke was the use of opioid agonist therapies like 22 buprenorphine and methadone maintenance in the treatment 23 of opioid use disorder. 24 And how does that type of treatment help these 25 individuals who, as you say, have a broken balance? 2.6 It's instinctively counterintuitive to think



- 1 about using opioids to treat an opioid addiction, but
- 2 these are opioids that have unique properties which
- 3 restore a homeostatic equilibrium for these individuals,
- 4 so they're not constantly living with cravings,
- 5 dysphoria, and the physiologic drive to want to use
- 6 opioids.
- 7 So it reasserts homeostasis and allows them to
- 8 reengage with other aspects of their lives.
- 9 Q And do opioids affect people who have chronic
- 10 pain or for whom -- have received prescriptions for
- 11 chronic pain differently than people who take opioids for
- 12 nonmedically indicated purposes?
- 13 A The fundamental process of neuroadaptation that
- 14 occurs in the brain leading to addiction is also the same
- 15 process that occurs in the brain of people who are given
- 16 opioids for the treatment of chronic pain.
- 17 One way to think about this is that people with
- 18 pain are not starting out with a level balance; they're
- 19 starting out with a balance tipped slightly to the side
- 20 of pain. They receive opioids which temporarily relieves
- 21 their pain and reasserts a kind of homeostasis. But with
- 22 repeated use over periods of time, that initial effect
- 23 gets weaker and shorter. That's called tolerance. And
- 24 the aftereffect gets longer and stronger.
- 25 And eventually they too end up with a
- 26 pleasure-pain balance that's weighted to the side of



- 1 pain. In fact, there are individuals who are on opioids
- 2 long term that develop something called opioid-induced
- 3 hyperalgesia, which is just a way of saying that their
- 4 pain actually gets worse as a result of long-term opioid
- 5 therapy.
- 6 And if you understand neuroadaptation and the
- 7 attempt of the brain to correct for homeostasis by
- 8 weighting things down to the side of pain, then it
- 9 becomes more intelligible how that might happen.
- 10 Q Can anyone become addicted to opioids?
- 11 A With enough exposure for a long enough period of
- 12 time, anybody could become addicted to opioids.
- 13 Q Are some people more susceptible to OUD, or
- 14 opioid addiction, than others?
- 15 A Yes. People come to the problem of addiction
- 16 with varying degrees of vulnerability. And some are
- 17 definitely more susceptible than others.
- 18 Q And what are the risk factors or the factors
- 19 that make people more susceptible to OUD than others?
- 20 A Risk factors for addiction, including opioid
- 21 addiction, can broadly be categorized into nature,
- 22 nurture, and neighborhood.
- 23 By nature, I mean that there is an increased
- 24 genetic risk for becoming addicted. If you have a
- 25 biological parent or grandparent with addiction, you are
- 26 more likely to get addicted even if raised outside of the



- 1 addictive home.
- 2 In terms of nurture, if you grow up in a chaotic
- 3 environment and you experience early childhood trauma,
- 4 epigenetic risk factors can contribute to your risk of
- 5 addiction.
- 6 Finally, in terms of neighborhood, one of the
- 7 most underappreciated risks of addiction is simple access
- 8 to that drug. If you live in a neighborhood where drugs
- 9 are sold on the street corner, you're more likely to try
- 10 them and you're more likely to get addicted to them.
- 11 If you go to a doctor who is liberal with their
- 12 prescription pad when it comes to controlled substances,
- 13 you're more likely to be exposed to opioids and then more
- 14 likely to get addicted to them.
- 15 Q Is there a reliable or foolproof way for a
- 16 physician to determine who will develop OUD as a result
- 17 of prescription opioids?
- 18 A No, there is not. So, in theory, because we
- 19 know retrospectively what the risk factors are for
- 20 developing opioid use disorder through a doctor's
- 21 prescription, we should be able to predict. But the
- 22 truth is that we cannot. And various opioid risk tools
- 23 or screening measures have proven to be no better than
- 24 chance in determining who will and will not get addicted
- 25 through a doctor's prescription.
- 26 Furthermore, all of those risk factors I just



- 1 named in terms of personal history of addiction or family
- 2 history of addiction or past history of trauma, those
- 3 risk factors pale in comparison to the risk of dose and
- 4 duration of exposure to the opioid.
- 5 Q Can a person with OUD just stop taking opioids
- 6 to cure that disease?
- 7 A The majority of individuals who have severe
- 8 opioid use disorder have a great difficulty stopping
- 9 opioids in the face of their disease. They can do it,
- 10 but they will endure a severe acute opioid withdrawal,
- 11 which for some is worse than death.
- 12 And as I stated before, there is this protracted
- 13 abstinence syndrome, where their pleasure-pain balance
- 14 remains tipped to the side of pain, driving craving and
- 15 the physiologic urge to continue to use opioids.
- 16 Q Among patients who are treated for pain with
- 17 opioids, what percentage will develop OUD according to
- 18 the literature?
- 19 A Reliable sources show that one in four patients
- 20 will develop an opioid use disorder when being treated
- 21 with opioids for chronic pain.
- 22 Q And are the risks associated with prescription
- 23 opioids limited to just the people who are prescribed
- 24 opioids?
- 25 A No. The people who are at risk include anybody
- 26 in society who has access to opioids whether or not those



- 1 opioids were prescribed to them. One of the things I
- 2 talk about in my report is not just the gateway theory of
- 3 progressing from prescription opioids to illicit opioids
- 4 but also what I call the tsunami effect, the flooding of
- 5 our society with more prescription opioids, conferring
- 6 greater access to the population as a whole and thereby
- 7 increasing the risk of the entire population towards the
- 8 harms of prescription opioids, including dependence,
- 9 misuse, overdose, death, and addiction.
- 10 Q How does the increased supply of prescription
- 11 opioids contribute to addiction and OUD rates across the
- 12 population?
- 13 A The more access that an individual has to a
- 14 drug, the more likely they are to try that drug and to
- 15 become addicted to that drug. Opioids are furthermore
- 16 unique because, different from other addictive
- 17 substances, opioids have been sold and marketed as
- 18 medicine.
- 19 Opioids also have a very low therapeutic index,
- 20 meaning that the desired effect is very near the lethal
- 21 effect. Furthermore, opioids have a very caustic and
- 22 debilitating dependence and withdrawal syndrome, such
- 23 that even when people try to stop, they're often unable
- 24 to because of the severe symptoms of withdrawal that they
- 25 experience.
- 26 Q I am going to pull up a slide that -- well, you



- 1 may. Can you explain what this slide entitled
- 2 "Prescription Rates Rise, Deaths and ODs Rise"?
- 3 What is that?
- 4 A This is a slide showing that, as sales of
- 5 prescription opioids increased between the years 1999 and
- 6 2010, so did treatment admissions for opioid addiction to
- 7 treatment centers as well as opioid overdose-related
- 8 deaths.
- 9 Q And do you have an opinion as to whether
- 10 increased sale of opioids is a cause of higher rates of
- 11 opioid deaths and hospitalization in the United States?
- 12 A Yes, I do. I think that the increased access
- 13 through prescription is causal and can -- and is a
- 14 significant contributor to the current opioid epidemic.
- 15 MS. FITZPATRICK: And can we go to Slide 5.
- No. Other way. There we go.
- 17 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 18 Q And is this a slide that you put together --
- 19 it's the wrong slide.
- 20 Can you explain the basis for that opinion?
- 21 A Yes, I can. So the basis for the causality
- 22 opinion is the consistency of findings across not just
- 23 that data point that you showed, but multiple reports and
- 24 multiple data points.
- 25 Also, the strength of the association. So not
- 26 merely showing a very strong association between exposure



- 1 to prescription opioids and subsequent addiction and
- 2 overdose deaths but also a causal relationship between
- 3 promoting opioids to doctors in a given region and
- 4 increased prescribing and overdose death in that region.
- 5 Beyond consistency and strength of the
- 6 association, there's also the temporal sequence that
- 7 exposure to opioids precedes addiction and overdose death
- 8 as well as that being a biologically plausible sequence
- 9 of events. Furthermore, these opinions are not merely my
- 10 opinions; there are -- this is essentially the consensus
- 11 opinion in medicine now.
- 12 If you look at the National Academies of
- 13 Science, Engineering, and Medicine 2017 report, it states
- 14 very clearly that the promotion and marketing of opioids
- 15 led to increased prescribing, led to the current opioid
- 16 epidemic. Also, the Association of Schools & Programs of
- 17 Public Health, a consortium of over 100 public health
- 18 programs in the country, including public health programs
- 19 in California, has also written an important treatise on
- 20 this topic expressing the same opinion.
- 21 O Is that the same in California?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q And going back to the use of prescription
- 24 opioids, can even a limited use of prescription opioids
- 25 lead to OUD?
- 26 A Yes. There are data showing that even a single



- 1 prescription of an opioid in the course of medical and
- 2 dental treatment can increase the risk of developing
- 3 opioid use disorder within that year. Also, we know that
- 4 even a brief exposure to opioids for the treatment of
- 5 acute pain can, in 5 to 10 percent of individuals, lead
- 6 to persistent opioid use a year to three years later.
- 7 And it's important to recognize that persistent opioid
- 8 use increases the risk of developing opioid addiction.
- 9 So the longer the duration of exposure to
- 10 prescription opioids and the higher the dose of those
- 11 prescription opioids, the greater the risk of developing
- 12 addiction and of dying from those opioids.
- 13 O Dr. Lembke, are you familiar with what's been
- 14 called abuse-deterrent formulations for prescription
- 15 opioids?
- 16 A Yes, I am.
- 17 Q Can you tell the Court what those are?
- 18 A Those are formulations of opioids that are
- 19 crush-resistant, serving as a deterrent for crushing and
- 20 snorting and crushing and injecting, two ways in which
- 21 people who misuse opioids will misuse them.
- 22 Q And can taking an abuse-deterrent formulation of
- 23 an opioid as prescribed by your physician lead to OUD or
- 24 opioid dependence?
- 25 A The most common way that people get addicted to
- 26 prescription opioids is to take them exactly as



- 1 prescribed, which is to say, if they're prescribed
- 2 orally, then they take them orally and they misuse them
- 3 orally and they become addicted to them orally.
- 4 Q Doctor, I want to shift a little bit, change
- 5 topics to something that you called the paradigm shift.
- 6 How were prescription opioids used before the 1990s in
- 7 the United States?
- 8 A Prior to the 1990s doctors used opioids
- 9 sparingly for surgery, severe trauma, and end of life.
- 10 Q Okay. And why was it used sparingly at that
- 11 time?
- 12 A There was widespread recognition and
- 13 understanding that opioids are highly dangerous drugs and
- 14 highly addictive. And doctors were reluctant to give
- 15 their patients an addiction to opioids.
- 16 O And in the 1980s was there a discussion in the
- 17 medical community suggesting that opioids should be used
- 18 less conservatively?
- 19 A Yes. In the 1980s, there began to be
- 20 recognition in the house of medicine that we were not
- 21 doing a very good job treating pain. This was also the
- 22 advent of the hospice movement imported from Europe
- 23 advocating for more care of patients at the end of life.
- 24 There were certain individuals inside of
- 25 medicine, key academic thought leaders, who began to
- 26 advocate for more liberal use of opioids in the treatment



- 1 of pain in order to help people with their suffering.
- 2 But there was not much data to support that. There were
- 3 a few not-very-robust data points in the '80s and '90s.
- 4 And so the prescribing did not appreciably increase in
- 5 those decades.
- 6 Q Did there come a point in time that the
- 7 prescribing started to -- the prescribing of opioids for
- 8 pain started to appreciably increase?
- 9 A The late 1990s, early 2000s represents the
- 10 beginning of the paradigm shift when opioid prescribing
- 11 went up, quadrupling between 1989 and approximately 2012
- 12 across the United States nationally. That increase in
- 13 opioids was because opioids became first-line treatment
- 14 for almost any patient in pain. And doctors pushed the
- dose from modest and conservative low doses to very, very
- 16 high doses such that it was not uncommon in that first
- 17 decade and beyond to see patients on 2,000 morphine
- 18 milligram equivalents daily for the treatment of their
- 19 pain.
- 20 Q And when you use the term "paradigm shift," can
- 21 you explain to the Court what you mean by that?
- 22 A What I mean by that is the standard of care for
- 23 how to target pain in the healthcare community shifted
- 24 over time. And that was accomplished through a number of
- 25 ways but primarily by false and misleading messaging
- 26 infiltrating the very governing bodies, professional



- 1 medical societies, and enforcement agencies that were
- 2 meant to protect people from the harms of opioids.
- 3 MR. BRODY: Your Honor, I'd move to strike.
- 4 Lack of foundation.
- 5 THE COURT: Just a moment.
- I am mindful of the motions in limine,
- 7 Ms. Fitzpatrick. You have laid an extensive foundation.
- 8 You have not laid a foundation for the marketing false
- 9 and misleading opinions. The foundation objection is
- 10 sustained and the last answer is stricken.
- 11 You may restate the question or lay a
- 12 foundation.
- 13 MS. FITZPATRICK: Thank you, your Honor.
- 14 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 15 Q And, Dr. Lembke, when we were talking before
- 16 about your qualifications, have you, prior to being
- 17 retained as an expert by the People in this case, done
- 18 independent research into whether there's a causal
- 19 relationship between what you called false and misleading
- 20 messages by the pharmaceutical industry and an increase
- 21 in the availability of prescription opioids throughout
- 22 the United States?
- 23 A Yes, I have. And that's in my book that was
- 24 published in 2016.
- 25 Q And can you tell the Court how you went about
- 26 doing your research for that particular proposition?



- 1 A I studied the medical literature, including
- 2 government documents and what was in the lay press,
- 3 attesting to the role of the opioid pharmaceutical
- 4 industry in terms of their courting key opinion leaders,
- 5 working together with the Federation of State Medical
- 6 Boards, the relationship that they had with organizations
- 7 like the Joint Commission, organizations like the Pain &
- 8 Policy Study Group, publications that were put out in
- 9 collaboration between the opioid pharmaceutical industry,
- 10 opioid manufacturers, including defendants, and key
- 11 opinion leaders who they promoted and professional
- 12 medical societies, all of which resulted in drawing the
- 13 medical community's attention to the promotional messages
- 14 that they wanted to promote in the morass of messages
- 15 that physicians have to wade through every day in order
- 16 to figure out what the science is. So they essentially
- 17 used that strategy to portray marketing as science.
- 18 MR. BRODY: Your Honor, I'd move to strike the
- 19 last answer for lack of foundation. And also it's
- 20 case-specific hearsay.
- 21 THE COURT: The answer isn't providing -- the
- 22 answer did not discuss, really, the foundation, but
- 23 restated -- or began to restate opinions.
- 24 The question also -- and perhaps the -- the
- 25 question was misunderstood. The objection to the
- 26 previous question related to an opinion being expressed



- 1 about false and misleading messaging.
- 2 That work was done to understand what the
- 3 opioid -- the pharmaceutical industry might have done
- 4 still does not lay a foundation or discuss what was done
- 5 to investigate or form a basis for opinions about the
- 6 content being false and misleading.
- 7 Ms. Fitzpatrick, the last answer is stricken.
- 8 You may start again.
- 9 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 10 Q Let me -- let me try it this way: Dr. Lembke,
- 11 you had testified about the increase in prescriptions
- 12 between 1998 and 2012. Can you explain to the Court what
- 13 happened after 2012 with respect to the prescription of
- 14 opioids?
- 15 A You mean in terms of the number of
- 16 prescriptions?
- 17 Q I'm sorry. Yes, in terms of the number of
- 18 prescriptions.
- 19 A Okay. So starting in 2012, the number of --
- 20 THE COURT: Dr. Lembke, I'm sorry to interrupt.
- 21 Before I hear your opinion as to what happened, I'd like
- 22 to understand the investigation, research work that you
- 23 did in order to be able to express that opinion. So I
- 24 need to understand what the source of your information is
- 25 before I hear the opinion itself.
- 26 THE WITNESS: Thank you, your Honor. I would



- 1 like to answer that.
- 2 So I was the recipient, as were my colleagues,
- 3 of these marketing messages. And I looked at the
- 4 marketing messages. So I investigated them independently
- 5 prior to my involvement in this litigation, and I
- 6 compared those messages with the science in the medical
- 7 literature in order to explore whether or not those
- 8 messages represented the real data.
- 9 And the conclusion that I came to was that they
- 10 were false and misleading.
- 11 Furthermore, I, in the course of writing my book
- 12 Drug Dealer, MD, interviewed patients and providers about
- 13 their experiences with these messages and how they
- 14 interpreted them and the impact that the messages had on
- 15 their prescribing. And that information, I then
- 16 subjected to a qualitative analysis which led me to my
- 17 current conclusions and which I do talk about in my book.
- 18 THE COURT: Ms. Fitzpatrick?
- 19 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 20 Q Dr. Lembke, let's go back to your opinions
- 21 concerning the increase in the use of opioids between
- 22 2012 -- or after 2012.
- 23 Can you describe to the Court whether there was
- 24 an increase in opioid use after 2012?
- 25 A So I -- in 2012 prescription opioids started to
- 26 go down slowly. Around that time, overdose deaths



- 1 related to heroin went up. And around 2015-2017, there
- 2 was a spike in fentanyl-related overdose deaths.
- 3 Prescription opioid-related overdose deaths went
- 4 down and/or plateaued during that time period between
- 5 about 2012 and 2017 but did not decline -- did not
- 6 considerably decline.
- 7 Q And did the increased access to prescription
- 8 opioids between 1998 and 2012 lead to an increase in
- 9 dependence, OUD, overdose, and death?
- 10 MR. KABA: Objection, your Honor; foundation.
- 11 THE COURT: Overruled.
- 12 THE WITNESS: The increased access to
- 13 prescription opioids between 1999 and 2012 was, I
- 14 believe, the biggest causative factor in the increase in
- 15 opioid addiction and overdose death.
- 16 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 17 Q And can you explain to the Court what the term
- 18 "morphine milligram equivalent," or MME, is?
- 19 A It's a way of comparing different opioids that
- 20 have different strengths, the different potencies. So
- 21 using morphine as the baseline, it's a way of then
- 22 comparing and contrasting the actual amount of opioids
- 23 that individual was getting by linking it all back to how
- 24 much that would be in milligrams of morphine.
- 25 Q And based on the research and your methodology
- 26 that you explained to the Court, have MMEs declined to



- 1 the same extent as the prescription units that you
- 2 discussed earlier since 2012?
- 3 A No, they have not. In 1999 -- or 1997, United
- 4 States physicians were writing prescriptions that equated
- 5 to approximately 100 morphine milligram equivalents per
- 6 person. By 2007, that had increased to 700 morphine
- 7 milligram equivalents per person. And by 2017, that had
- 8 decreased to approximately 550 morphine milligram
- 9 equivalents per person, still five times the amount of
- 10 morphine prescribed -- or the amount of opioids
- 11 prescribed in 1997.
- 12 Q Dr. Lembke, I want to turn to -- well, let me
- 13 ask what's the significance of MMEs not declining to
- 14 the -- at the same rate as the actual number of
- 15 prescriptions?
- 16 A The significance there is that, in order to
- 17 appreciate the extent of the increased prescribing, it's
- 18 important not just to look at the numbers of
- 19 prescriptions written per person but also how high those
- 20 doses were.
- One of the big shifts in terms of this paradigm
- 22 shift was this idea that no dose is too high, that if a
- 23 patient comes in saying that the analgesic effects have
- 24 worn off, you can just go up on the dose and continue to
- 25 go up and continue to go up with impunity and without
- 26 increasing risk, which is how we got to the place where,



- 1 by 2007, we were prescribing 700 morphine milligram
- 2 equivalents per person in the United States.
- 3 And just to put that into perspective, the
- 4 average opioid-addicted person who gets methadone
- 5 maintenance from a methadone maintenance clinic is on
- 6 approximately 100 to 150 morphine milligram equivalents
- 7 daily. So as a patient with pain seeing a doctor, you
- 8 could get seven times the amount of effective opioids on
- 9 a regular basis as you would get from a methadone
- 10 maintenance clinic.
- 11 Q So, Dr. Lembke, I want to turn to the messaging
- 12 around opioids, which was part of your opinions here.
- 13 You heard Dr. Perri testify about certain common
- 14 promotional messages that were used by the four
- 15 defendants in this case, correct?
- 16 A Yes, I did.
- 17 Q And have you reviewed substantially similar
- 18 messages to those identified by Dr. Perri to determine
- 19 whether those claims that are made in those messages are
- 20 supported by the medical and scientific evidence and
- 21 literature?
- 22 A Yes, I have.
- 23 Q And you did that as part of your research for
- 24 your book and the work that you were doing prior to being
- 25 retained as an expert by any government entity in opioid
- 26 litigation, correct?



- 1 A Yes, I did.
- 2 Q And let me pull up the next slide.
- 3 Are these the misrepresentations that Dr. Perri
- 4 identified and that you have seen in the promotional
- 5 messages that you considered and analyzed in this case?
- 6 A These are the messages that I considered and
- 7 analyzed, yes.
- 8 Q Okay. And what I want to do is go through each
- 9 of those messages separately and talk about the
- 10 scientific or medical evidence related to those messages.
- 11 So if what we do is -- let's take the first one, which
- 12 you've identified as misrepresentation number one,
- 13 "Addiction to opioids prescribed for treatment of pain is
- 14 rare."
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Dr. Lembke, you testified a little bit earlier
- 17 that about one in four people who are prescribed opioids
- 18 will develop some form of OUD; is that correct?
- 19 A Yes, that's correct.
- 20 Q Okay. And can you explain -- can you elaborate
- 21 on that a little bit more for the Court?
- 22 A Sure. The most robust resource for this to date
- 23 is the Vowles, et al., article, showing that 21 to
- 24 29 percent of pain patients prescribed an opioid will
- 25 misuse that opioid. And 8 to 12 percent of those
- 26 individuals will develop a moderate to severe opioid use



- 1 disorder.
- 2 Vowles is a highly reliable source because it
- 3 included a high number of studies, 38 studies; because it
- 4 didn't use arbitrary quality measures but included
- 5 multiple studies; and that, in fact, compared the
- 6 aggregate results to the highest-quality studies and
- 7 found that the highest-quality studies of the 38 studies
- 8 had a consistent finding. The Vowles authors furthermore
- 9 did not have any conflicts of interest.
- 10 Q Let me step back a little bit and just break
- 11 this down. Rates of misuse averaged between 21 and
- 12 29 percent. What does rates of misuse represent here?
- 13 A So misuse in its simplest definition means using
- 14 an opioid differently than how the doctor prescribed it.
- 15 But in the Vowles study, their definition and measures of
- 16 opioid misuse correspond very closely with the DSM
- 17 criteria such that I believe that their opioid misuse
- 18 category is consistent with mild opioid use disorder
- 19 using the DSM-5 criteria.
- 20 And so -- sorry.
- 21 Q That's okay.
- What is mild opioid use disorder?
- 23 A So the DSM-5 has 11 criteria to define and guide
- 24 the diagnosis of opioid use disorder. And opioid use
- 25 disorder is diagnosed on a spectrum, meaning that you can
- 26 have a mild, moderate, or severe form depending upon how



- 1 many criteria are met.
- 2 So two to three criteria gives you a mild opioid
- 3 use disorder, four to five is a moderate opioid use
- 4 disorder, and six or more is a severe opioid use
- 5 disorder, with some qualifications.
- 6 Q And, Dr. Lembke, can we go ahead -- can you
- 7 identify for the Court the full title of the study that
- 8 you were referring to here.
- 9 A Oh, at the bottom you see sources Vowles, et
- 10 al., "Rates of Opioid Misuse, Abuse, and Addiction in
- 11 Chronic Pain: A Systematic Review and Data Synthesis,"
- 12 published in 2015.
- 13 Q Where was this published?
- 14 A It was published in the journal Pain.
- 15 Q If you go up to this slide, "Across most
- 16 calculations, rates of misuse average between 21 to
- 17 29 percent." And underneath it says, "Range, 95 percent
- 18 confidence interval 13 to 38 percent."
- 19 Can you tell me what that means?
- 20 A That means that, although there's a range of
- 21 results, we can be confident that the range occurs
- 22 within -- that the true result occurs within that range.
- 23 Q So the true result occurs between 13 and
- 24 38 percent; is that right?
- 25 A Yes.
- 26 Q And then going on to rates of addiction average



- 1 between 8 and 12 percent.
- 2 Is that the severe OUD or moderate to severe OUD
- 3 that you were talking about?
- 4 A Yes, it is.
- 5 Q And what is that confidence interval range?
- 6 A That means that we can -- with 95 percent
- 7 surety, we can know that the true range is between 3 and
- 8 17 percent.
- 9 Q And you had identified -- tell us why you relied
- 10 on this particular study for your conclusions concerning
- 11 the rates of both mild OUD and moderate to severe OUD in
- 12 pain patients.
- 13 A Again, because they included a large number of
- 14 studies. 38 is a large number of studies for this
- 15 subject in terms of a meta-analysis. The authors had no
- 16 conflicts of interest --
- 17 THE COURT: Dr. Lembke, I did already hear your
- 18 explanation. Thank you.
- 19 Ms. Fitzpatrick?
- 20 MS. FITZPATRICK: I want to turn to the next
- 21 slide, Jon.
- 22 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 23 Q Okay. And can you tell the Court what this
- 24 slide represents.
- 25 A This slide is a timeline showing what was known
- 26 when in terms of the rates of addiction to prescription



- 1 opioids among pain patients being prescribed opioids.
- 2 And importantly what it shows is that, dating back as
- 3 early as 1970s, there were studies showing that --
- 4 showing rates of as high as 24 percent of developing
- 5 addiction in a pain population being treated with
- 6 medicinal opioids.
- 7 You'll note that the second value is
- 8 0.03 percent, and that is the now infamous Porter and
- 9 Jick study that was referenced by the industry to support
- 10 the claim that the risk of addiction to opioids is rare
- 11 or less than 1 percent in individuals who are getting
- 12 prescribed opioids by a doctor. So that is not a
- 13 reputable data point.
- 14 But even that aside, you'll see there's a broad
- 15 range of findings here, but all the findings are well
- 16 above the less than 1 percent that was attested to by the
- 17 Porter and Jick. Furthermore, the Vowles article
- 18 incorporates many of the studies listed here.
- 19 Q Now, turning to the next slide, what does the
- 20 World Health Organization consider to be rare for an
- 21 adverse event frequency in a pharmaceutical?
- 22 A The World Health Organization has provided this
- 23 conceptual diagram for understanding when an adverse
- 24 outcome is rare versus common. And as you can see, very
- 25 common is greater than or equal to 1 in 10, common is
- 26 greater than 1 in 100, et cetera, and very rare or rare



- 1 is less than 1 in 10,000 or greater than 1 in 10,000,
- 2 less than 1,000.
- 3 The findings for the risk of addiction among
- 4 chronic pain patients or pain patients being treated for
- 5 opioids by any measure is not rare.
- 6 Q And does that include the 8 to 12 percent for
- 7 the moderate to severe OUD?
- 8 A Yes. So that would -- that would suggest, then,
- 9 that the true rate of becoming addicted to opioids when
- 10 getting them from a doctor for a pain condition is common
- 11 or very common.
- 12 Q And did you review some of the marketing and
- 13 promotional claims by the defendants in this case
- 14 concerning the rates of addiction to opioid medication?
- 15 A Yes, I did.
- 16 Q Okay. And I want to turn to the next slide.
- 17 And these are documents that are already in evidence in
- 18 this case.
- 19 Are these some of the examples that you picked
- 20 that demonstrate a common message among the defendants in
- 21 this case that addiction to opioids prescribed for
- 22 treatment of pain is rare?
- 23 MS. FEINSTEIN: Objection, your Honor. The
- 24 Fentora document referred to on this slide has not yet
- 25 been entered into evidence. So I'll object on the basis
- 26 of foundation and facts not in evidence.



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Page 2455
              MS. FITZPATRICK: Thank you.
 1
 2
              Your Honor, that is my error.
 3
              Let's pull up 1367, Jon.
         BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
 4
 5
         Q
              Doctor, can you take a look at the document
 6
     that's before you. And it will be in your Magna file too
 7
     if you want to take a look at it in more detail. If you
 8
     turn to second page, of this, Jon.
 9
              Do you recognize this document?
10
             Yes, I do.
         Α
              And can you tell the Court what this document
11
         Q
12
     is?
              This is a document that was used internally to
13
14
     train sales representatives on Fentora.
15
              MS. FITZPATRICK: Your Honor, I'm understanding
     there's no objection to the admission of this document.
16
     So the People will move P-CA-1367 into evidence at this
17
     time.
18
19
              THE COURT: Any objection?
20
              MS. FEINSTEIN: No objection, your Honor.
                                                          Thank
21
     you.
22
              THE COURT: P-1367 is admitted.
23
              (Whereupon, Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 1367 was
24
              received in evidence.)
25
              MS. FITZPATRICK: Jon, can you go back to the
26
     slide that we had up.
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- 1 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 2 Q And you do notice that the P-CA-1367 is in the
- 3 top left-hand section of this slide. Can you explain to
- 4 the Court what the four boxes on this slide represent?
- 5 A These represent false or misleading messages on
- 6 the part of defendants that purported to claim that
- 7 addiction to opioids prescribed for the treatment of pain
- 8 is rare.
- 9 Q And why did you choose these examples?
- 10 A These examples were just emblematic of many of
- 11 the documents that I reviewed.
- 12 Q And do you remember what the Kadian learning
- 13 system is?
- 14 A Yes, I do.
- 15 Q All right. Can you tell the Court why you chose
- 16 something from the Kadian learning system for this -- we
- 17 lost the slide -- the Kadian learning system for an
- 18 example here of what you call Misrepresentation Number 1?
- 19 A The Kadian learning system, like the Fentora
- 20 "Introduction to Pain," was a document that was used
- 21 internally to train sales reps, different from, for
- 22 example, the "Finding Relief" document on this slide,
- 23 which was a patient-facing document on the Duragesic
- 24 website, which was a public-facing website.
- 25 I thought it was important to look not just at
- 26 internal training documents but also to patient-facing



- 1 documents to explore the synchronicity or not between the
- 2 messages that were being communicated to sales reps and
- 3 to patient consumers and prescribers directly.
- 4 Q And what do you mean by "synchronicity"?
- 5 A To see what was being said to sales reps versus
- 6 what was being said to prescribers and patient consumers.
- 7 And what I found was that these false and misleading
- 8 messages could be found in all of those places.
- 9 MS. FITZPATRICK: And if we turn to the next
- 10 slide, Jon.
- 11 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 12 Q And is this an example --
- 13 A I'm sorry. Do I have an opportunity to talk
- 14 about those misleading messages?
- 15 Q We are going to. We'll go back to it, but I
- 16 just wanted to identify this one as well.
- 17 Is this, the "Finding Relief Pain Management for
- 18 Older Adults," is this something that you selected as
- 19 well as an example of these what you call
- 20 Misrepresentation Number 1?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q Okay. And can you tell the Court what was
- 23 significant about this document?
- 24 A Again, this was a patient-facing document that
- 25 Janssen put together in collaboration with the American
- 26 Geriatric Association. And I think what's striking here



- 1 is that the very myth that Janssen, in collaboration with
- 2 the American Geriatric Association, acclaimed to be
- 3 untrue are much closer to the truth than what they stated
- 4 as fact. And I'm happy to go through them if you'd like.
- 5 Q I'd like you to start with the first myth,
- 6 "Opioid medications are always addictive."
- 7 A Okay. So opioid medications are not always
- 8 addictive, but they are often addictive. It is very
- 9 common for patients to get addicted when exposed to a
- 10 doctor's prescription. And it is simply not true that
- 11 many studies show that opioids are rarely addictive when
- 12 used properly for the management of chronic pain. Again
- 13 I cited the Vowles study, which is the meta-analysis for
- 14 that.
- 15 It states here as a myth that opioids make it
- 16 harder to function normally --
- 17 Q Let me ask you a question about that. The
- 18 Vowles study that we discussed, that was an analysis of
- 19 multiple different studies that had been reported in the
- 20 medical literature, correct?
- 21 A Yes. It was a meta-analysis.
- 22 Q And did any of those studies, independently and
- 23 independent of the Vowles study, indicate that opioids
- 24 are rarely addictive when using the World Health
- 25 Organization standard for rare?
- 26 A Only the Porter and Jick, which is not a real



- 1 study. It was a letter to the editor based on a
- 2 single-point observation of hospitalized patients, many
- 3 of whom had received only a single dose of an opioid.
- 4 Q And do you consider the Porter and Jick letter
- 5 to the editor to be a reliable source for basing what you
- 6 have called evidence-based medicine?
- 7 A No.
- 8 Q And why not?
- 9 A As I said, it was based on a hospitalized
- 10 population of individuals, many of whom were exposed to
- 11 opioids only briefly, some with just a single dose. That
- 12 can hardly be compared to outpatients receiving opioids
- 13 at high dose for long duration.
- 14 Q And let's go to the second -- what is called
- 15 here by Janssen a myth. "Opioids make it harder to
- 16 function normally," and underneath it says "The Facts."
- 17 Can you explain to the Court whether that fact
- 18 has basis in the medical and scientific literature?
- 19 A Yes. So this is important because it's a claim
- 20 for increased function and improved function and improved
- 21 quality of life on the part of Janssen, which is not
- 22 supported by any evidence.
- 23 And, by the way, quality of life measures are
- 24 very strictly considered in the scientific literature.
- 25 It's not a claim that can be made easily by any
- 26 pharmaceutical manufacturer.



- 1 And, in fact, opioids can make it harder to
- 2 function normally. And, you know, for example, in my
- 3 report I talk about workers' compensation data showing
- 4 that individuals in California who went on medical leave
- 5 for workers' compensation and received opioids for their
- 6 injury or their pain were less likely to return to work
- 7 than individuals who received no opioids for similar
- 8 conditions.
- 9 Q And then the last myth here is that "Opioid
- 10 doses have to get bigger over time because the body gets
- 11 used to them." And underneath is "The Fact" that "Unless
- 12 underlying cause of your pain gets worse, such as with
- 13 cancer or arthritis, you will probably remain on the same
- 14 dose or need only small increases over time."
- 15 Can you tell the Court whether there is support
- 16 in the medical and scientific literature for that fact as
- 17 identified in this "Finding Relief Pain Management for
- 18 Older Adults"?
- 19 A Yes. So I think it's really important to
- 20 understand that there is good evidence for the use of
- 21 opioids in the treatment of pain short term. But the
- 22 fundamental problem with using opioids daily over a
- 23 longer period of time -- longer being more than 12 weeks,
- 24 which is what we have definitionally used as the duration
- 25 of chronic pain, that period of time after which normal
- 26 tissue healing would have occurred -- that opioids



- 1 physiologically lose their ability to provide analgesia
- 2 because of tolerance, which is why patients need to go up
- 3 and up and up on their dose over time.
- 4 It is untrue to say that increasing the dose of
- 5 the opioid over time is a result of the progression of
- 6 the pain condition getting worse. That is potentially
- 7 true, but the primary reason that opioid doses need to go
- 8 up over time is because of the development of tolerance,
- 9 which is almost universal.
- 10 Q And, Doctor, I want to go back to the slide
- 11 before. And without reading these documents, which the
- 12 Court has seen and which are in the record, can you
- 13 explain the messaging that is contained in these examples
- 14 that you chose for this slide?
- 15 A Yeah. So I want to start with the first one on
- 16 the left that starts "like patients."
- 17 Your Honor, I think the keywords here are
- 18 "Caregivers may need reassurance." This really speaks to
- 19 the paradigm shift, the fact that prescribers were wary
- 20 to use opioids for good reason, but that the opioid
- 21 pharmaceutical industry reassured them against the
- 22 evidence and against, frankly, common sense that they
- 23 could use opioids. And they did so in part by making a
- 24 distinction between what they called legitimate medical
- 25 reasons or legitimate pain patients and individuals who
- 26 are addicts, diverters getting drugs from the street.



- 1 Furthermore, I'll draw your attention to their
- 2 saying that physical dependence to a drug is easily
- 3 overcome through scheduling dosing decreases. There is
- 4 nothing easy about getting an opioid-dependent patient
- 5 off of opioids.
- I am working with patients now who are on year
- 7 three of their opioid taper. It is incredibly burdensome
- 8 for them, for providers, for the healthcare system. And
- 9 there is significant morbidity and mortality associated
- 10 with dependence.
- 11 Q Dr. Lembke, if I can just make sure that the
- 12 record is clear that what you're referring to here is
- 13 excerpts from P-CA-1367 --
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q -- P-CA-001687, JAN-CA-602365, and P-CA-000251.
- 16 Is that right?
- 17 A Yes, it is.
- 18 Q And focusing on the issue of whether addiction
- 19 to opioid prescribed for the treatment of pain is rare,
- 20 did you reach an opinion on whether the promotional
- 21 messages that have been identified were false and
- 22 misleading?
- 23 A Yes. I believe these promotional messages are
- 24 false and misleading.
- Q And in addition to the ones that you've
- 26 identified on these two slides that we've identified in



- 1 the record, did you see examples of similar messaging
- 2 related to risk of addiction from opioids in the other
- 3 promotional material that you reviewed?
- 4 A Yes, I did.
- 5 Q And are they consistent messages across multiple
- 6 promotional channels, I will call them?
- 7 MR. KABA: Objection, your Honor. Vague.
- 8 Foundation.
- 9 THE COURT: On vague, it's sustained.
- 10 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 11 Q Do you have an opinion, Dr. Lembke, as whether
- 12 the statement that the risk of addiction was rare was a
- 13 cause of more people being exposed to a larger supply of
- 14 prescription opioids in California?
- 15 MR. KABA: Objection, your Honor. Lack of
- 16 foundation.
- 17 MS. FEINSTEIN: Objection. Foundation.
- THE COURT: On foundation, sustained.
- 19 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 20 Q Dr. Lembke, have you offered testimony to the
- 21 United States Congress on your research concerning
- 22 these -- this type of marketing misrepresentation, or
- 23 what you call a misrepresentation, that the risk of
- 24 addiction was rare?
- 25 A Yes.
- 26 Q Okay. And have you offered -- have you been



- 1 invited to give testimony to the United States Congress
- 2 on whether that statement or that marketing message was a
- 3 cause of more people being exposed to a larger supply of
- 4 prescription opioids?
- 5 MR. KABA: Objection, your Honor. Relevance.
- 6 THE COURT: Sustained.
- 7 MS. FITZPATRICK: Your Honor, I'm laying the
- 8 foundation that this is part of the work that she has
- 9 done and the research that she has done outside of this
- 10 case.
- 11 THE COURT: That the same opinion is expressed
- 12 somewhere else adds nothing to the foundation for the
- 13 opinion. The objection is not to the witness potentially
- 14 having said the same thing elsewhere but to the
- 15 foundation for the opinion.
- 16 The objection to foundation is sustained. You
- 17 may, of course, attempt to lay a foundation. And the
- 18 foundation is not "I've said it before" or "I've said it
- 19 often."
- 20 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 21 Q Dr. Lembke, have you done independent research
- 22 to determine whether there's a correlation between the
- 23 statements -- the marketing message that the risk of
- 24 addiction to opioids is rare and whether that was a cause
- 25 of more people being exposed to a larger supply of
- 26 prescription opioids? Have you done that research?



- 1 A Yes, I have.
- 2 Q And can you explain to the Court how you did
- 3 that research?
- 4 A I looked at the medical literature and I looked
- 5 at what the science actually showed about the risk of
- 6 addiction in patients being treated with opioids for
- 7 pain, and I compared that to the marketing messages to
- 8 see whether or not those messages were consistent with
- 9 the evidence in the literature.
- 10 And my conclusion was that those messages are
- 11 not --
- 12 MR. BRODY: Your Honor, I'm sorry. I object to
- 13 a statement of the conclusion. The question was simply
- 14 whether -- how she did the research. I'd have a
- 15 foundation objection.
- 16 THE COURT: The question as present is limited
- 17 to what research was done to support an opinion.
- 18 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 19 Q Dr. Lembke, before you get to the opinions, I
- 20 don't want you to offer the opinions until the Court
- 21 allows us to do so and if the Court allows us to do so.
- 22 So I'm just asking you about the research that you did.
- 23 Is the type of research that you did into that
- 24 question consistent with the way research is done in your
- 25 field of expertise?
- 26 A Yes.



- 1 Q And can you explain that to the Court, please.
- 2 A To deeply explore the science and the medical
- 3 literature and to come to a conclusion based on the
- 4 weight of the evidence is a standard way to evaluate the
- 5 literature.
- 6 Q And is that the type of research that you do in
- 7 conjunction with your appointment at Stanford University?
- 8 A Yes, it is.
- 9 Q And earlier I think you said three legs on the
- 10 stool of the position that you hold at Stanford
- 11 University. Is that right?
- 12 A Um-hum, yes.
- 13 Q Is one of those research?
- 14 A Yes, it is.
- 15 Q And in conjunction with that appointment at
- 16 Stanford and the research that you did, have you
- 17 researched this particular question?
- 18 A Yes, I have.
- 19 Q And is the way that you've researched this
- 20 particular question which you've described to the Court
- 21 consistent with the way that medical and scientific
- 22 research is done in your field of expertise and in
- 23 conjunction with your appointment at Stanford University?
- MR. KABA: Your Honor, I'm just going to object
- 25 on vagueness grounds because at this point I don't know
- 26 what this particular question is referring to.



- 1 THE COURT: Ms. Fitzpatrick, or directly to the
- 2 witness, some confusion at the moment, certainly in my
- 3 mind, is as follows: The witness, earlier on in the
- 4 testimony, had a slide presented that contained a list of
- 5 misrepresentations. Not purporting to identify all of
- 6 them, but one was that addiction is rare; two was that
- 7 opioid use disorder could just be pseudoaddiction; and so
- 8 on.
- 9 The question at the moment is focused on the
- 10 contention that to say that addiction is rare is a false
- 11 and misleading statement.
- 12 Is the question whether the doctor isolated that
- one misrepresentation from the others and is expressing
- 14 an opinion that that misrepresentation, that a standalone
- 15 misrepresentation that addiction is rare, itself caused
- 16 an increase in prescriptions? And if so, what's the
- 17 basis for that opinion?
- MS. FITZPATRICK: Your Honor, in the motions in
- 19 limine there was no motion in limine that was raised as
- 20 to whether Dr. Lembke could testify about whether these
- 21 particular misrepresentations that we're going to go
- 22 through were supported by the medical and scientific
- 23 literature.
- 24 What I'd like to go through is, having
- 25 established this misrepresentation as her opinion that it
- 26 is false and misleading, is the effect of that type of



- 1 messaging on the medical community and on the prescribing
- 2 behaviors of physicians.
- 3 THE COURT: Ms. Fitzpatrick, I understand that.
- 4 My question is narrower. Is your question intended to
- 5 elicit from Dr. Lembke that she investigated the issue of
- 6 rareness -- that addiction is rare -- separate from the
- 7 other causes or as one of the factors which, in her
- 8 opinion, caused the increased writing of prescriptions?
- 9 MS. FITZPATRICK: The question is whether it's
- 10 one of the factors, your Honor.
- 11 THE COURT: That's not how the question was
- 12 framed. And if the doctor is answering it and purporting
- 13 to lay her foundation, she needs to make clear whether
- 14 she's laying a foundation for an opinion that a falsity
- 15 about addiction being rare by itself caused an increase
- 16 and, if so, what's the basis; or that it's one of the
- 17 causes of the factors. And even then, precisely what she
- 18 did to connect the dots between "I see false
- 19 misrepresentations on the issue of it being rare and is
- 20 causal, and the work I did to determine it was causal is
- 21 as follows."
- 22 MS. FITZPATRICK: Thank you, your Honor. I
- 23 think what we'll do is we will go through the
- 24 misrepresentations, and then I will ask about the causal
- 25 effect of the misrepresentations collectively at the end.
- 26 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:



- 1 Q Dr. Lembke, let me turn to the second
- 2 misrepresentation.
- 3 If we could go back to that slide, Jon, Slide
- 4 Number 5. Yes, Slide Number 6.
- 5 What did you identify as the second
- 6 misrepresentation?
- 7 A That many patients exhibiting symptoms of opioid
- 8 use disorder are suffering from pseudoaddiction.
- 9 Q Now, have you heard the term "pseudoaddiction"
- 10 before your work in OUD and opioid addiction?
- 11 A I'm not sure I understand your question.
- 12 Q When did the term "pseudoaddiction" first appear
- in the medical literature?
- 14 A I'm not remembering exactly when it first
- 15 appeared. It was in the context of a case report
- 16 coauthored by David Haddox. This case report described
- 17 an individual who was exhibiting signs and symptoms
- 18 consistent with an opioid addiction who the authors of
- 19 the report then determined that he, in fact, had what
- 20 they call pseudoaddiction. He was in pain, and that the
- 21 appropriate remedy was to simply go up on the dose.
- 22 So that was the only data point that introduced
- 23 that term. It was not based, for example, on any kind of
- 24 rigorous science. It was a made-up term in a case
- 25 report.
- 26 Q And have you done an investigation to reach a



- 1 conclusion in this case as to whether there's a valid
- 2 medical basis for the condition identified as
- 3 pseudoaddiction?
- 4 A Yes. I've reviewed the literature on
- 5 pseudoaddiction, and there is no valid scientific basis
- 6 for pseudoaddiction. So this slide shows that that case
- 7 report was published in 1989 by David Haddox. And also
- 8 in --
- 9 Q If you can, we have to do it by question and
- 10 answer, if you don't mind, Dr. Lembke.
- Can you tell me about the 2018 study that you
- 12 have identified as a basis for your opinions on this
- 13 issue of pseudoaddiction?
- 14 A Yeah. So this was an article looking at the
- 15 term "pseudoaddiction" in the medical literature and
- 16 concluding that there was no empirical evidence to
- 17 justify a diagnosis of pseudoaddiction.
- 18 Q And what was the recommended treatment for
- 19 pseudoaddiction in patients who were prescribed opioids
- 20 for pain?
- 21 A Right. So in the false and misleading messages,
- 22 the implied and/or explicit recommendation for
- 23 pseudoaddiction was to simply go up on the dose of
- 24 opioids.
- 25 Q And --
- 26 MR. KABA: Objection, your Honor. Move to



- 1 strike, again foundation. And I'm just going to reassert
- 2 my vagueness objection as to who are the individuals or
- 3 entities with these messages?
- 4 THE COURT: Overruled.
- 5 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 6 Q And turning to some of the promotional messages
- 7 from the defendants in this case, did you look through
- 8 the promotional messaging from these defendants in this
- 9 case to find examples of the use of the term
- 10 "pseudoaddiction"?
- 11 A I would phrase it a little differently. I would
- 12 say I looked at promotional messages. And in the course
- 13 of looking at their promotional material, I found
- 14 frequent references to pseudoaddiction.
- 15 MS. FITZPATRICK: And if we can go to the next
- 16 slide, Jon.
- 17 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 18 Q And are these some of the examples that you
- 19 found of the use of the term "pseudoaddiction" from these
- 20 particular defendants in their promotional messaging?
- 21 A Yes, these are examples.
- 22 Q And each of those -- yeah, each of these
- 23 documents is in evidence.
- They are P-CA-399 and P-CA-251, for the record.
- 25 Can you tell the Court what the oxymorphone
- 26 learning system is?



- 1 A The oxymorphone learning system was a document
- 2 used internally to train sales representatives on how to
- 3 think about and talk about these concepts with
- 4 prescribers.
- 5 Q And what was the Kadian learning system?
- 6 A Similarly, the Kadian learning system was used
- 7 to train sales reps on how to understand these concepts
- 8 and how to communicate them to prescribers.
- 9 Q And why did you choose these examples from
- 10 P-CA-399 and P-CA-251 for your testimony today?
- 11 A These were classic examples of how
- 12 pseudoaddiction appeared in internal marketing material
- 13 or training material.
- 14 Q Are these the only examples that you saw of the
- 15 use of pseudoaddiction in marketing and promotional
- 16 materials by these defendants?
- 17 A No. I've seen many examples in the many
- 18 documents that I've reviewed that are consistent with
- 19 these examples.
- 20 Q Okay. And in your opinion, are the marketing
- 21 and promotional messages concerning patients exhibiting
- 22 OUD symptoms suffering from pseudoaddiction false or
- 23 misleading?
- 24 A Yes, they are false and misleading.
- 25 Q Can you tell us why?
- 26 A So pseudoaddiction is -- it's not -- it's not a



- 1 scientific concept; it's a made-up term. Furthermore, it
- 2 in a very dangerous way contributed to making it more
- 3 difficult for prescribers to detect and diagnose
- 4 addiction in their patients who had become addicted to
- 5 the opioids that they were prescribing. And it
- 6 encouraged up-titration, increasing the dose of the
- 7 opioid, which paradoxically increased that patient's risk
- 8 of becoming further addicted to that opioid.
- 9 Q And I want to --
- 10 Can you go back to Slide Number 5, Jon.
- 11 Misrepresentation Number 3, the, quote-unquote,
- 12 average person cannot get addicted to opioids prescribed
- 13 by a doctor.
- 14 Can you -- based on your knowledge and
- 15 expertise, can the average person who is prescribed
- 16 opioids by their doctor get addicted to those opioids?
- 17 A Yes, the average person can get addicted through
- 18 their doctor's prescription. Nearly anybody could get
- 19 addicted through a doctor's prescription, given a high
- 20 enough dose for a long enough duration.
- 21 Q And earlier today you talked about screening
- 22 tools to identify patients who are at risk of developing
- 23 OUD. Have you done research in the medical and
- 24 scientific literature into those screening tools?
- 25 A Yes. As I've stated earlier, there are no valid
- 26 or reliable screening tools to try to predict who will or



- 1 will not develop an opioid use disorder through a medical
- 2 prescription. The opioid risk tool, which was championed
- 3 by Lynn Webster, one of the key opinion leaders, had been
- 4 shown to be no better than chance in figuring out who can
- 5 and cannot -- who will and will not get addicted.
- 6 And although it is true that individuals bring
- 7 varying levels of vulnerability to addiction through a
- 8 doctor's prescription, we in the medical community have
- 9 yet to discover a way to predict who those individuals
- 10 are and the --
- 11 Q Let me just -- I don't mean to interrupt you,
- 12 Doctor, but I just want to make sure that we've got a
- 13 question and an answer for what we're doing here.
- Jon, could you go to Slide 14.
- 15 So let me -- let me break this down a little
- 16 bit. You just mentioned that prescreening for OUD risk
- 17 is no better than chance. And I've put a slide up here.
- 18 Are these the articles that you rely on for that
- 19 particular opinion?
- 20 A Yes. So the one in the middle, the Clark, et
- 21 al., rereviewed the opioid risk tool and found that it
- 22 was no better than chance in predicting aberrant behavior
- 23 in the course of medical treatment.
- 24 Q And it -- I don't mean to interrupt you, Doctor,
- 25 but we need to do it in question-and-answer format.
- 26 That's Clark, et al., in Pain Medicine in 2018;



Page 2475 is that right? 1 2 Α Yes. 3 And can you tell me the significance of the -- I 4 think it's called Klimas; is that right? Am I 5 pronouncing that one right? 6 Yeah. Α 7 JAMA in 2019. Yeah. So Klimas, et al., did a more thorough 8 9 look at screening tools and found that, really, there was no -- there were no high-quality studies demonstrating 10 whether or not you could separate out high- from low-risk 11 patients. 12 And I'd like you to talk about the Edlund 13 Okay. article in Pain Medicine 2014. 14 Let me go back one slide to Slide Number 13, 15 16 Jon. Is this a graph from the Edlund article that you 17 had referenced on the previous slide? 18 19 Α Yes, it is. 20 Q And can you let the Court know what the source 21 of this graphic is, please? 22 This is Edlund, et al. The title is "The Role 23 of Opioid Prescription in Incident Opioid Abuse and 24 Dependence Among Individuals with Chronic Noncancer Pain, " published in the Clinical Journal of Pain, 2014. 25 26 And can you explain to the Court what this slide



- 1 represents with respect to your opinions concerning
- 2 whether the average person can get addicted to opioids
- 3 prescribed by doctors?
- 4 A Yes. So Edlund, et al., took a very large
- 5 population of patients and compared those exposed to a
- 6 prescription opioid and those not exposed to a
- 7 prescription opioid to figure out if and who would
- 8 develop opioid use disorder and what the strength of that
- 9 relationship was.
- 10 And what Edlund, et al., found was that
- 11 individuals with no risk factors for opioid use disorder,
- 12 like prior mental health disorder -- that's what you see
- 13 here on the left-hand side of the screen -- or prior
- 14 alcohol use disorder or prior mental health disorder,
- 15 history or explicitly a prior opioid use disorder, were
- 16 at increased risk to develop opioid addiction compared to
- 17 those not exposed to an opioid.
- 18 But the very significant finding in Edlund, et
- 19 al., is on the right-hand side of the study showing that,
- 20 if you looked at risk of addiction as measured by how
- 21 long the patient was on the prescription opioid and how
- 22 high the dose was, that, importantly, for individuals
- 23 prescribed an opioid for three months or more, the risk
- 24 of developing addiction went up as a function of dose and
- 25 that those who received, in the red bar, more than
- 26 120 milligrams per day were at 122 times the risk of



- 1 developing an opioid use disorder than individuals not
- 2 exposed to an opioid.
- 3 Q Can you explain to the Court what a low dose and
- 4 medium dose and a high dose is as used in this Edlund
- 5 study?
- 6 A In that study a low dose was defined as 1 to 36
- 7 morphine milligram equivalents daily. The medium dose
- 8 was defined as 36 to 120 morphine milligram equivalents
- 9 daily, and a high dose was defined as anything greater
- 10 than 120 morphine milligram equivalents daily.
- 11 Q Okay. And did you look at the promotional
- 12 messages of the defendants related to assertions that the
- 13 original person cannot get addicted to opioids prescribed
- 14 by a doctor?
- 15 A Yes, I did.
- 16 Q And if we turn to Slide 15.
- 17 Does this slide represent some of the
- 18 misrepresentations or some of the examples of the
- 19 misrepresentations that the average person cannot get
- 20 addicted to opioids through a doctor's prescription?
- 21 MS. FEINSTEIN: Objection, your Honor, to the
- 22 extent that this slide includes messages from third
- 23 parties. It lacks -- or it assumes facts not in evidence
- 24 and lacks foundation as to any particular defendant.
- THE COURT: Just a moment.
- The objection is overruled.



- 1 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 2 Q And, Doctor, the exhibits that are already in
- 3 evidence that you reference on this slide are P-CA-1391,
- 4 P-CA-251, and P-CA-399, correct?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q And can you tell the Court why you chose these
- 7 examples to demonstrate a common marketing message that
- 8 the average person cannot get addicted to opioids through
- 9 a doctor's prescription?
- 10 A These were simply illustrative of this false and
- 11 misleading messaging. I'm trying to make this
- 12 distinction between, quote-unquote, the average person or
- 13 what was commonly referred to in these messages as a
- 14 patient being treated for a legitimate pain condition and
- 15 to somehow make a distinction between those individuals
- 16 and so-called addicts or people who abuse drugs or people
- 17 who divert drugs, when, in fact, those individuals,
- 18 chronic pain patients and people who become addicted, can
- 19 and often are one and the same.
- 20 O And was the "American Pain Foundation: A Guide
- 21 for People Living with Pain," was that a customer-facing
- 22 material or an internal document?
- 23 A Yes, that was a patient consumer and prescriber
- 24 consumer outwardly facing document.
- 25 Q And I think you testified that the learning
- 26 systems were inwardly facing documents; is that right?



Page 2479 Α That's right. 1 2 And did you see consistency among the external Q messaging as well as the messaging that was reflected 3 internally concerning this misrepresentation? 4 5 Α Yes, I did. Okay. And did you see more examples in the 6 7 promotional materials and the promotional messages from the defendants related to this Misrepresentation Number 3 8 that the average person cannot get addicted to opioids 9 through a doctor's prescription? 10 MR. BRODY: Objection, your Honor; vague, and 11 lacks foundation. 12 THE COURT: Sustained. 13 14 BY MS. FITZPATRICK: The three documents here that you've represented 15 here, are those just examples of common promotional 16 17 messages that you have seen across --18 THE COURT: Ms. Fitzpatrick, your voice has, for some reason, gone into a Star Wars routine is the only 19 20 way I can describe it. Would you try that again? 21 MS. FITZPATRICK: Lucky you, Judge. 22 Is that better? 23 THE COURT: That is much better. 24 MS. FITZPATRICK: Okay. 25 THE COURT: You need to ask that question again. BY MS. FITZPATRICK: 2.6



- 1 Q The three documents that you've identified here,
- 2 are these examples of the common marketing message that
- 3 you saw across the promotional materials that you
- 4 reviewed in this case?
- 5 MR. KABA: Objection; foundation, vague, also
- 6 leading.
- 7 THE COURT: The vague objection is sustained.
- 8 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 9 Q Did you see other examples in the marketing
- 10 promotional materials from the defendants of this
- 11 Misrepresentation Number 3 that the average person cannot
- 12 get addicted to opioids through a doctor's prescription?
- MR. BRODY: Objection, your Honor; foundation,
- 14 and vague as to "defendants."
- THE COURT: Just a moment, please.
- The vague objection is identified. The
- 17 reference to other materials does not form the basis for
- 18 any opinion and is simply going to lead to a distraction
- 19 on cross-examination. Unless the doctor can identify
- 20 them now, they should not be referred to.
- 21 MS. FITZPATRICK: Your Honor, would you like me
- 22 to go through each of them? Some of the documents are
- 23 already in evidence.
- 24 THE COURT: I don't know if the doctor can
- 25 identify the other materials that you are referring to.
- 26 You may ask.



- 1 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 2 Q Dr. Lembke, did you look at the documents that
- 3 were admitted into evidence in this case?
- 4 A Yes, I did.
- 5 Q And did you review the documents -- the
- 6 defendants' own documents that were introduced into
- 7 evidence in this case to see whether there were other
- 8 examples of the Misrepresentation Number 3 that the
- 9 average person cannot get addicted to opioids through a
- 10 doctor's prescription?
- 11 A Yes, I did.
- 12 Q And did you see other examples of that in the
- 13 documents that were introduced into evidence in this
- 14 case?
- 15 MR. KABA: Your Honor, I'm going to object again
- on vagueness grounds. We don't know what the witness is
- 17 referring to, and we have to compare what the witness is
- 18 testifying to to what she actually disclosed in her
- 19 report as well. And it's impossible to do that with this
- 20 sort of question.
- 21 THE COURT: The vagueness objection is
- 22 sustained.
- 23 MS. FITZPATRICK: Your Honor, I'm just pausing
- 24 because I'm trying to think of the most efficient way to
- 25 satisfy this without necessarily having to go through
- 26 every single exhibit that's in evidence and identify it.



- 1 So I apologize for just pausing to think of the way that
- 2 I can do this most efficiently.
- 3 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 4 Q Dr. Lembke, in your opinion, are promotional
- 5 messages that represent that the average person cannot
- 6 get addicted to opioids through a doctor's prescription
- 7 false or misleading?
- 8 A Yes, that is false and misleading.
- 9 Q And why is that false and misleading?
- 10 A The Edlund study shows that the biggest risk
- 11 conferred is the dose and duration, not prior risk
- 12 factors, which means that, number one, anybody on a high
- 13 enough dose for a long enough period of time has a very
- 14 high risk of becoming addicted.
- 15 Furthermore, the so-called average person that
- 16 these misleading messages are referring to is set up as
- 17 distinct from those individuals with, quote-unquote,
- 18 addictive disease who engage in pharmacy theft, forged
- 19 prescriptions, taking their pills from other people with
- 20 pain, all of which sets up in a recipient's mind this
- 21 false distinction between average people or legitimate
- 22 pain patients and those drug addicts over there who are
- 23 ruining it for the rest.
- 24 That's a false dichotomy. Anybody receiving an
- 25 opioid from a doctor, even for the legitimate treatment
- 26 of a medical condition, is at risk of becoming addicted.



- 1 And the biggest risk factors are not their personal
- 2 history of addiction or mental illness but dose and
- 3 duration as shown by Edlund.
- I'd also, if I may speak individually to some of
- 5 these misrepresentations, talk a little bit more about --
- 6 Q Dr. Lembke, if it's okay, I'm going to ask -- I
- 7 know that you're used to lecturing, but I need to be able
- 8 to ask you the questions just so the record is clear.
- 9 I do want to turn to the actual
- 10 misrepresentations that you have identified on this
- 11 particular slide. And if you can tell the Court why you
- 12 selected these misrepresentations from the "American Pain
- 13 Foundation: A Guide for People Living with Pain," which
- 14 is P-CA-1391.
- 15 THE COURT: Ms. Fitzpatrick, the witness, each
- 16 time you've shown her a slide like this, has confirmed
- 17 that these are selected because they represent examples
- 18 of where she believes the false and misleading statement
- 19 appears. Do you want her to say something beyond that?
- MS. FITZPATRICK: I wanted her to tell you, your
- 21 Honor, why she selected these particular
- 22 misrepresentations or these particular selections.
- 23 THE COURT: Dr. Lembke, anything you would add
- 24 beyond what I just said?
- 25 THE WITNESS: Well, perhaps I've already
- 26 communicated what I wanted to communicate to you, your



Page 2484 Honor. So perhaps there's no need. 1 2 I do think that the quote on the right-hand side 3 at the bottom possibly requires some additional 4 explanation, but perhaps not. 5 I guess I would say to you, your Honor, do you have any questions about these quotes and how they relate 6 7 to the misrepresentation at the top? 8 THE COURT: I do not. 9 Ms. Fitzpatrick, do you have anything else on 10 this slide? MS. FITZPATRICK: No, I don't, your Honor. 11 Your Honor, I'm going to turn to another topic. 12 Do you want me to keep going, given that it's the time --13 THE COURT: No. If you're changing the subject, 14 let's take a break at this time. We are adjourned until 15 3:10. Thank you. 16 (A brief recess is taken.) 17 18 THE COURT: Good afternoon, everybody. We are 19 back on the record. 20 Ms. Fitzpatrick? 21 THE CLERK: Your Honor, your screen is yellow. 22 THE COURT: How about now? 23 THE CLERK: Okay. 24 MS. FITZPATRICK: I'm here, your Honor. Thank



Jon, can we go back to Slide Number 5.

you. Sorry about that.

25

26

Page 2485 BY MS. FITZPATRICK: 1 2 Dr. Lembke, I want to talk about what you've 3 termed Misrepresentation Number 4, "Opioids are an appropriate first-line, long-term treatment for chronic 4 5 pain." 6 Let me start with some basic propositions. What is chronic pain? 7 Chronic pain is usually defined as pain 8 9 persisting past the time that would be expected for 10 normal tissue healing. By most definitions, chronic pain 11 is pain that lasts most days for three months or more. There are some definitions in the literature using six 12 months or more; but, in general, consensus has defined 13 chronic pain as pain lasting three months or more. 14 And how does it differ from acute pain? 15 Well, acute pain is pain of a short duration; so 16 typically less than three months. 17 Okay. And why is that difference between 18 Q 19 chronic pain and acute pain significant when considering 20 opioid therapies? 21 Number one, the evidence does support the use of 22 opioids short term in the treatment of acute pain. 23 is no reliable evidence that opioids work or are safe 24 when used for more than approximately 12 weeks. 25 So that's -- that's a key -- a key piece. 26 And is there a difference between using opioids 0



- 1 long term to treat chronic pain and using opioids in the
- 2 short term to treat chronic pain?
- 3 A Yeah. So that's an important distinction.
- 4 If you have a person who has chronic low back
- 5 pain, for example, you've had that low back pain for
- 6 three months or more, and you treat them with opioids,
- 7 they will likely, if they tolerate the opioids,
- 8 experience some relief.
- 9 But if you give that individual an opioid every
- 10 day for more than three months, they will likely
- 11 experience tolerance, dependence, maybe even interdose
- 12 withdrawal. And there is no reliable evidence that the
- 13 opioids are actually helping with their pain. In fact,
- 14 in that instance, when patients take opioids, their
- 15 subjective experience of pain relief is more likely
- 16 treating their withdrawal from their last dose rather
- 17 than the underlying pain condition.
- 18 Q You used a term in there, "interdose
- 19 withdrawal." Can you tell the Court what that is?
- 20 A Because of this process of neuroadaptation to
- 21 opioids and the tolerance that develops when people take
- 22 them every day for more than three months, because they
- 23 stopped working, patients will often report that they are
- 24 indeed clock-watching, for example, because the analgesia
- 25 has worn off before the time when they're supposed to
- 26 take their next dose.



- 1 And once tolerance and interdose withdrawal
- 2 occurs, that's a pretty good indication that that opioid
- 3 at that dose is no longer helping the patient and may, in
- 4 fact, be contributing to harm simply by the fact that now
- 5 the patient is in this cycle of interdose withdrawal.
- And I'll leave it at that.
- 7 Q Thank you.
- 8 If you can pull up, Jon, Slide 16. Let me see
- 9 if I've got the right one. There it is.
- 10 And so, Doctor, can you explain to the Court
- 11 what is represented on this slide entitled "Evidence of
- 12 opioid benefits insufficient to justify the risks"?
- 13 A These are all articles in the medical literature
- 14 which I have reviewed which I've included in my report,
- 15 which represent important definitive studies of the
- 16 benefits of opioids in the treatment of pain lasting
- 17 longer than three months.
- 18 And in each instance, the authors concluded that
- 19 the evidence was insufficient or weak to support the use
- 20 of opioids in the treatment of -- to support the
- 21 long-term use of opioids -- that is, opioids daily for
- 22 more than 12 weeks, 12 to 16 weeks -- in the treatment of
- 23 chronic pain.
- 24 Q And the studies that you chose are dated between
- 25 2009 and 2018; is that correct?
- 26 A Yes.



- 1 Q And can you tell -- point out to the Court a
- 2 couple of the studies that you believed most establish --
- 3 or are consistent with your opinions here concerning the
- 4 use of opioids long term to treat chronic pain?
- 5 A The first one by Chou, et al., is particularly
- 6 significant because these were clinical guidelines for
- 7 the use of chronic opioid therapy published in a
- 8 definitive journal representing a definitive professional
- 9 organization, the American Academy of Pain Medicine.
- 10 And their assessment that there was insufficient
- 11 evidence to vet the effects on health outcomes was buried
- 12 deep in the appendix of this article, when the earlier
- 13 sections of this article actually strongly recommended
- 14 the use of opioids in the treatment of chronic pain
- 15 despite weak evidence. And --
- 16 Q And why did you consider the Chou article to be
- 17 significant for your opinions in this matter?
- 18 A These were very influential guidelines on how
- 19 physicians should be approaching opioid therapy and the
- 20 treatment of chronic pain published in 2009. And most of
- 21 the authors of this article, including the cochairs, were
- 22 receiving consulting fees by defendants in this case and
- 23 other opioid manufacturers.
- Q So let's go to the next slide.
- 25 And does this reference the Chou article that
- 26 you were just discussing?



- 1 A Yes, it does.
- Q Okay. And tell me, what were the clinical
- 3 guidelines for the use of chronic opioid therapy in
- 4 chronic noncancer pain that were advocated in this
- 5 particular article?
- 6 A Well, as I said, this was a very influential
- 7 article from an esteemed professional medical society,
- 8 the American Academy of Pain Medicine, in conjunction
- 9 with the American Pain Society, which put out these
- 10 quidelines. And I think it's important to appreciate
- 11 that doctors practicing in the modern age rely heavily on
- 12 these definitive guidelines to inform them about what
- 13 evidence-based care should look like.
- MS. FITZPATRICK: And if we go to the next
- 15 slide, Jon.
- 16 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 17 Q This is entitled "Pain Guidelines Conflict of
- 18 Interest." Dr. Lembke, can you tell the Court what this
- 19 represents?
- 20 A So this has the authors of these guidelines,
- 21 many of them on the left-hand side and, on the right-hand
- 22 side, their conflicts and disclosures. And, as you'll
- 23 see, many of them were receiving income from the
- 24 defendants in this case.
- The importance of this is that the influence
- 26 that defendants exercised was very often in this manner



- 1 behind the scenes, supporting individuals and
- 2 institutions that were promoting the expanded use of
- 3 opioids in the absence of evidence.
- And, as a result, the impact on physicians like
- 5 me and my peers was to believe that this represented the
- 6 best that science has to offer when, in fact, given these
- 7 consultations -- or these consulting relationships, I
- 8 think it's fair to argue that these individuals were --
- 9 were biased.
- 10 MR. KABA: Objection. Move to strike that last
- 11 portion as lacking foundation with respect to the opinion
- 12 on bias, your Honor.
- 13 THE COURT: No, the objection is overruled.
- 14 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 15 Q And let's go back to slide -- let me ask you
- 16 this: The pain guidelines conflict of interest, the
- 17 cochairs, who among the defendants did -- have received
- 18 fee income from -- excuse me. Let me start that all over
- 19 again. It's getting late in the day for me.
- 20 Cochair, who among the defendants had provided a
- 21 fee income to the cochairs of this clinical guideline?
- 22 A You can see that cochair Gilbert Fanciullo was
- 23 receiving income from Janssen and Teva.
- 24 Q And Dr. Fine from Cephalon, Endo -- and Endo; is
- 25 that right?
- 26 A Yes. That's right.



Page 2491 And as you go down this list, there are one, 1 two, three, four, five, six, seven -- there are more than 2 3 a dozen panel members who are identified here; is that 4 right? 5 Α That's right. The majority of the members were receiving some kind of funding from opioid pharma. 6 7 And that includes funding from Endo; is that right? 8 9 Α That's correct. 10 Funding from Janssen? 0 11 Α Yes. Funding from Cephalon? 12 Q Α Yes. 13 Funding from Teva? 14 Q Α Yes. 15 And if we can go back to Slide Number 16. 16 Q Now, you have identified these clinical 17 guidelines as recommending opioid therapy for Dr. Chou in 18 19 2009, but also indicate that there is lack of evidence. 20 Can you explain that to the Court? 21 Well, I mean, it's -- it's difficult, in fact, Α 22 to reconcile that the guidelines came out strongly in 23 favor of using opioids in the treatment of chronic pain 24 despite sufficient evidence supporting that 25 recommendation. And, again, as I've just testified, I 26 think that the fact that the majority authors were taking



- 1 funding from pharma would support bias in this case.
- 2 Q And you had testified earlier that you had done
- 3 an analysis and research on the -- through the medical
- 4 and scientific literature.
- 5 Did you look through that literature to
- 6 determine the body of literature related to the evidence
- 7 of opioids' benefits -- excuse me -- the evidence of the
- 8 benefits of using opioids long term to treat chronic
- 9 pain?
- 10 A Yes, I did.
- 11 Q Okay. And could you find evidence in that
- 12 medical and scientific literature that supported the use
- 13 of opioids long term to treat chronic pain?
- 14 A No, I could not find evidence to that effect.
- 15 Q And if opioids are not an effective long-term
- 16 treatment option for chronic pain, what in your
- 17 experience as a practitioner is an effective or an
- 18 appropriate treatment option?
- 19 A Unfortunately, we do not have very good
- 20 treatments for chronic pain. And the other treatments --
- 21 there are many other medications that are not opioids.
- 22 There are many other interventions -- physical therapy,
- 23 psychotherapy, other mind-body strategy -- and none of
- 24 them have very good evidence.
- 25 Q And do any of those other treatment options that
- 26 you have identified carry with them a risk of developing



- 1 addiction?
- 2 A Not that I'm aware, no.
- 3 Q And beyond the potential development of OUD and
- 4 the ramifications of that, are there other dangers of
- 5 using opioids as a first-line treatment for chronic pain
- 6 in patients?
- 7 A There are many other side effects associated
- 8 with long-term opioid use. Many people don't, in fact,
- 9 tolerate opioids very well, whether long term or short
- 10 term. Side effects include constipation, hormone
- 11 changes, for example, lowered testosterone especially
- 12 when used chronically. Cardiac effects are notable.
- 13 People can develop problems with cognition, with
- 14 depression.
- 15 There is, as I spoke of earlier, this phenomenon
- 16 of opioid-induced hyperalgesia, showing that individuals
- 17 who are on opioids long term actually can experience an
- 18 exacerbation of their existing pain condition and/or
- 19 develop pain in parts of their body where pain didn't
- 20 even exist before.
- 21 Q Dr. Lembke, in your opinion, are messaging that
- 22 assert that opioids are an appropriate first-line
- 23 treatment for chronic pain false and misleading?
- 24 A Yes, on a number of counts. And as I said here
- 25 several times, there is no evidence to support their
- 26 effectiveness when used longer than about 12 weeks and a



- 1 mounting evidence of harm when used longer than 12 weeks.
- 2 And I think that the use of the term "first
- 3 line" is also misleading. Opioids only in very rare
- 4 instances should be first-line treatment for pain. And
- 5 the reason for that, even in acute pain, is that exposure
- 6 to opioids even in short term can set up vulnerable
- 7 individuals to persist in using those opioids and
- 8 developing addiction down the road.
- 9 Q Doctor, did you look through evidences in the
- 10 record in this case to look for examples of this type of
- 11 promotional messaging?
- 12 A I'm sorry. What type of promotional messaging?
- 13 Q That opioids are an appropriate first-line
- 14 treatment for the treatment of chronic pain.
- 15 A Yes, I did.
- 16 Q Okay.
- 17 And I want to pull up first, Jon, P-CA-000421.
- 18 And, Doctor, do you recognize this document?
- 19 A Yes, I do.
- 20 Q And is this a document that you relied on for
- 21 your opinions in this case?
- 22 A Yes, it is.
- 23 Q And is this a document that you relied on
- 24 concerning marketing and promotional messages in this
- 25 particular case?
- 26 A Yes, it is.



Page 2495 MS. FITZPATRICK: Your Honor, I believe there's 1 2 no objection to the introduction of P-CA-421. 3 MR. KABA: No, that's -- that's not correct. reserved objections pending the questions. At least as 4 5 framed, we object on foundation grounds, your Honor. 6 THE COURT: Ms. Fitzpatrick, what's the question 7 relating to the document? 8 I will go through -- it's MS. FITZPATRICK: 9 going to be marketing messages in here, but if Mr. Kaba 10 prefers, I can go through the marketing messages in order 11 to identify them. 12 If we turn --MR. KABA: Your Honor, if I may, the objection 13 is as to foundation whether or not this witness can 14 testify that this was used as marketing or promotion. 15 THE COURT: Ms. Fitzpatrick? 16 MS. FITZPATRICK: Your Honor, it's -- on its 17 face, I don't think you need to be an expert to -- in 18 19 marketing and promotion to know that, when you see a 20 coupon savings card for an opioid product, that it is a 21 marketing and promotional document. 22 I'm, again, candidly surprised. I understood 23 that there was no objection to this document, and 24 Dr. Lembke did use it and rely on it in her report as 25 something that identified some of these common marketing



and promotional themes that were seen throughout these

26

- 1 documents. And, for that reason, we would seek to admit
- 2 it into evidence.
- 3 THE COURT: What is the stipulation, if any,
- 4 regarding this document?
- 5 MS. FITZPATRICK: I'm looking at an e-mail that
- 6 I got last night saying -- let me see -- that they are
- 7 reserving a right to object to any questions that might
- 8 be asked to any of these documents. But beyond that,
- 9 there is no objection on hearsay and relevance, on
- 10 foundation, on business record, or anything like that.
- 11 THE COURT: I don't know how to understand that
- 12 e-mail. If all objections are reserved, what, if
- 13 anything, is stipulated or agreed?
- 14 MS. FITZPATRICK: Your Honor, that there would
- 15 be no objections that would be raised concerning hearsay,
- 16 foundation, or that it was a business record.
- 17 THE COURT: Is that stated in the e-mail?
- 18 MS. FITZPATRICK: Yes.
- 19 THE COURT: Mr. Kaba, what is the foundation
- 20 objection if there is no objection to foundation?
- 21 MR. KABA: Your Honor, that's not what the
- 22 e-mail says. The e-mail -- I'm looking at it. It says
- 23 we, of course, reserve our right to object to any
- 24 questions that may be asked about any of these documents.
- 25 With respect to this specific exhibit, we said we're
- 26 reserving objections pending questions because we didn't



- 1 know what the witness was purporting the document to be.
- 2 The foundation objection, your Honor, is this
- 3 witness is now being asked to opine that this was
- 4 marketing and promotion communication. The only way it
- 5 would be relevant is if it was in the plaintiff
- 6 jurisdiction. There is no foundation for this witness to
- 7 say that this document was used in the plaintiff
- 8 jurisdiction as marketing or promotional messages.
- 9 That's the foundation objection.
- 10 THE COURT: If there has been no stipulation to
- 11 foundation, the foundation objection is sustained.
- 12 MS. FITZPATRICK: Thank you, your Honor.
- 13 Putting aside that -- can we just mark that for
- 14 later? Okay. Thank you.
- 15 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 16 Q Putting that aside, did you look at other
- 17 examples of -- from the documents that are already in
- 18 evidence in this case, as cited in your report, that
- 19 opioids are an appropriate first-line treatment for the
- 20 long-term treatment of chronic pain?
- 21 A Yes, I did.
- 22 O Okay. And if we can turn to Slide 19.
- 23 Are these some of the examples that you selected
- 24 that support Misrepresentation Number 4, "Opioids are an
- 25 appropriate first-line treatment for long-term chronic
- 26 pain"?



- 1 A Yes, they are.
- 2 MS. FITZPATRICK: And just for the record, we
- 3 are reflecting Exhibit P-CA-1391, Exhibit P-CA-1693,
- 4 AL-CA-300050, and JAN-CA-602365.
- 5 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 6 Q And can you tell me why you chose these examples
- 7 from the documents that are in evidence in this case as
- 8 related to your opinions concerning Misrepresentation
- 9 Number 4?
- 10 A Yes. And so these statements all allude in some
- 11 way to using opioids long term in the treatment of pain,
- 12 whether it's the first one, "They may be important to the
- 13 management of persistent pain unrelated to cancer, " which
- 14 again supports this idea of expanded use beyond malignant
- 15 end-of-life pain.
- The second one, key feature message, this is
- 17 important because it refers to an article in the
- 18 literature which was 12 weeks in duration, by Katz,
- 19 et al. And this article was then used and prompted for
- 20 sales reps to use with prescribers in a broader statement
- 21 about using opioids to treat pain long term, i.e.,
- 22 chronic pain.
- 23 Kadian sales rep training one uses this "first
- 24 line" language, when, in fact, opioids, very dangerous
- 25 drug, should not be used first line, and that's supported
- 26 by the CDC guidelines that came out in 2016.



- 1 And then the "Finding Relief," that's the
- 2 patient-facing document that Janssen -- implying that
- 3 people being treated with opioids for chronic pain can
- 4 return to a normal existence and find that they will use
- 5 it long term to somehow get the life back that they had
- 6 when there's no evidence to support that.
- 7 MS. FITZPATRICK: Go back to Slide Number 5
- 8 again, Jon.
- 9 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 10 Q Let's turn to misrepresentation -- what you
- 11 called Misrepresentation Number 5, "No dose of opioids
- 12 for the treatment of pain is too high."
- Doctor, in your review of the medical and
- 14 scientific literature, is there evidence to support the
- 15 proposition that no dose of opioids for the treatment of
- 16 pain is too high?
- 17 A No. There's -- there's no evidence to support
- 18 that, and there is evidence to support the opposite.
- 19 Q Okay.
- 20 Please go to Slide 20, Jon.
- 21 Does this slide reflect some of the support that
- 22 you have for your opinion that no dose of opioids for the
- 23 treatment of pain too high is a false message?
- A Yes. So this shows the odds ratio or the risk
- 25 of overdose in individuals treated with different amounts
- 26 of opioids for chronic pain. There's a group of patients



- 1 receiving no opioids, less than 20 morphine milligram
- 2 equivalents, 20 to 50, 50 to 100, and then greater than
- 3 100 and looking at their risk of overdose as a function
- 4 of the dose that they are receiving. It's showing that
- 5 the higher the dose the higher the risk of opioid
- 6 overdose.
- 7 And this is Dunn, et al., at the bottom, but
- 8 these -- these findings have been replicated in other
- 9 studies -- the Gomes article, Bonnard, et al. -- showing
- 10 very similar findings.
- 11 Q For the record, this is Dunn, et al., "Opioid
- 12 Prescriptions for Chronic Pain and Overdose: A Cohort
- 13 Study." Is that right?
- 14 A That's right.
- 15 Q And when was that published?
- 16 A 2010.
- 17 Q And where was that published?
- 18 A In the Annals of Internal Medicine.
- 19 Q Is that a reputable journal?
- 20 A Yes, it is.
- 21 Q Is there a relationship between exposure to
- 22 opioids and the potential of overdose and deaths?
- 23 A Yes. That's what this slide is showing, that
- 24 the higher the exposure, the higher risk of opioid
- 25 overdose and death.
- 26 Q And are promotional messages that state or



- 1 suggest that no dose of opioids for the treatment of pain
- 2 too high, do you have an opinion as to whether that is a
- 3 false or misleading message?
- 4 A Yes. I believe that to be false and misleading.
- 5 Q Do you have any other reason than what we've
- 6 just discussed with the Court?
- 7 A To believe that that's false and misleading?
- 8 Q Yes.
- 9 A Not right now.
- 10 Q Okay. And did you look through the documents
- 11 that are in evidence in this case to determine whether
- 12 there are -- to look for examples of this type of
- 13 promotional messaging related to no dose of opioids for
- 14 the treatment of chronic pain is too high for the
- 15 defendants in this case?
- 16 A Yes, I did.
- 17 MS. FITZPATRICK: Okay. We can turn to
- 18 Slide 21, Jon.
- 19 And just for the record, this slide reflects
- 20 P-CA-1391, P-CA-401, P-CA-579, P-CA-625, P-CA-251.
- 21 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 22 Q And can you tell the Court why you selected
- 23 these examples from documents that are in evidence that
- 24 are related to your opinions concerning the marketing
- 25 message that no dose of opioids for the treatment of pain
- 26 is too high?



- 1 A So the first on the left from the American Pain
- 2 Foundation uses language that was common in these false
- 3 and misleading messages, namely that no ceiling dose
- 4 exists.
- 5 It's important to clarify that,
- 6 pharmacologically, opioids do not have a ceiling dose. A
- 7 ceiling dose is defined as finding the receptor and
- 8 continuing to stimulate the receptor as the amount of the
- 9 opioid goes up.
- 10 But it's misleading here to use a pharmacologic
- 11 term to talk about how the drug works at the cellular
- 12 level to communicate that that is true in a clinical
- 13 setting when, in fact, there's evidence showing that the
- 14 higher the dose the higher the morbidity and mortality.
- 15 Also, this juxtaposition of opioids with NSAIDs,
- or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory, was a common
- 17 misleading strategy to get providers who do struggle with
- 18 the side effects of NSAIDs, putting their patients at
- 19 higher doses in particular, mainly GI side effects --
- 20 ulcers, bleeding dyscrasia. But to juxtapose that with
- 21 NSAIDs was a way to promote opioids saying how you can't
- 22 keep going up on NSAIDs or, for that matter, Tylenol
- 23 because of the liver damage that Tylenol can cause, but
- 24 opioids you can keep going up and up.
- 25 And then other misleading messages in the
- 26 statement. I can run through the others if you like.



- 1 Q No. I just wanted to reflect it for the record
- 2 if there's anything specific in here that you need to
- 3 draw the judge's attention to that requires your
- 4 specialized skill or knowledge to explain. Otherwise, we
- 5 will move on.
- 6 A The only thing that I would point your Honor's
- 7 attention to is the frequent use of "tolerance." For
- 8 example, in the Endo quote, which is second -- it's in
- 9 the middle on the left-hand side -- it says, "If
- 10 tolerance does occur, it does not mean that you will run
- 11 out of pain relief."
- 12 Your Honor, that's exactly what tolerance means.
- 13 It means that you will run out of pain relief. And
- 14 you've got one of two options then. You've got to go up
- on the dose, or you've got to get off.
- 16 Q And, Doctor, just so I'm clear, are these
- 17 examples of the type of promotional messages that you
- 18 believe are false or misleading?
- 19 A Yes, these are examples. And I think this idea
- 20 of "no dose is too high" represents a particularly
- 21 insidious false and misleading message among my peer
- 22 group of physicians. We -- I was the recipient of these
- 23 messages, and I, with my peers, truly believed at one
- 24 point that we could just go up and up and up on the dose
- 25 and our patients wouldn't be harmed. And, as a result,
- 26 we have an entire generation of patients who are on



- 1 extremely high, extremely dangerous doses and now
- 2 struggling to get off.
- 3 MS. FEINSTEIN: Excuse me. Objection, your
- 4 Honor, to the last response and move to strike the end of
- 5 that answer as unfounded hearsay as to her colleagues and
- 6 the causation is an improper opinion without foundation.
- 7 THE COURT: Just a moment.
- 8 Everything after the first sentence in the
- 9 answer was nonresponsive to the question and is stricken.
- 10 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 11 Q And let's turn to Misrepresentation Number 6,
- 12 "Physiologic opioid dependence is benign and easily
- 13 reversible."
- 14 Did you look at that misrepresentation to see
- 15 whether it's supported in the medical and scientific
- 16 literature?
- 17 A Yes, I did.
- 18 Q So let's start with what is physiologic opioid
- 19 dependence?
- 20 A Physiologic opioid dependence is the process of
- 21 neuroadaptation to the presence of the opioid, resulting
- 22 in downregulation of dopamine and our own endogenous or
- 23 internal production of our own opioids to accommodate the
- 24 external or exogenous influx of opioids, leading to a
- 25 condition where, if that individual were to lower their
- 26 dose of opioids or stopped abruptly, they would venture



- 1 into the classic syndrome of opioid withdrawal.
- 2 Q And is there support in the medical and
- 3 scientific literature for the proposition that, once a
- 4 patient develops physiologic opioid dependence, it is
- 5 benign and it is easily reversible?
- 6 A No. In fact, there's a growing body of work
- 7 showing that, for patients who become physiologic --
- 8 physiologically dependent on opioids, especially chronic
- 9 pain patients, that lowering their dose or getting off
- 10 altogether is extremely difficult.
- 11 MS. FITZPATRICK: If we can turn to Slide 22,
- 12 Jon.
- 13 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 14 Q And does this slide, entitled "Dependence is a
- 15 Serious Condition and Hard to Treat," summarize your
- 16 findings from your review of the medical and scientific
- 17 literature concerning whether opioid dependence is benign
- 18 and easily reversible?
- 19 A Yes. So these are a series of studies that
- 20 undertook trying to taper opioid-dependent chronic pain
- 21 patients who, importantly, did not meet the five criteria
- 22 for opioid use disorder but were -- merely met criteria
- 23 for physiologic dependence and struggled to get off.
- So, for example, the Weimer study was a study
- 25 showing tremendous effort on the part of a large clinic
- 26 to help these individuals taper down and finding that it



- 1 was extremely difficult to do so.
- 2 And, by the way, these were individuals in whom
- 3 it had already been determined that the risks of
- 4 continuing on opioids outweighed any potential benefits.
- 5 In other words, they were deemed to not be experiencing
- 6 benefit from continuing opioids and were experiencing
- 7 harms.
- 8 Q Dr. Lembke, can you tell the Court what
- 9 breakthrough pain is?
- 10 A Breakthrough pain is a phenomenon of patients
- 11 who have become tolerant to and dependent on opioids who
- 12 then experience pain in the midst of a period of time
- 13 when that opioid should be managing or covering their
- 14 pain. So breakthrough pain is, in essence, an example of
- 15 the development of tolerance to the analgesic effects of
- 16 opioid.
- 17 Q And going back to your clinical experience and
- 18 the work that you've done, the BRAVO protocol that you
- 19 previously identified, is that related to this topic of
- 20 whether or not opioid dependence is benign and easily
- 21 reversible?
- 22 A Yes. The BRAVO protocol was developed in
- 23 recognition that tapering chronic pain patients who are
- 24 physically dependent on opioids to lower doses is
- 25 difficult to do. And it requires a certain amount of
- 26 expertise. It requires time. It requires extensive



- 1 health services. It requires the patient to endure quite
- 2 a bit of pain and suffering.
- 3 So the BRAVO protocol was a way to help support
- 4 healthcare providers in helping patients taper when the
- 5 risks of continuing outweighed any potential benefit.
- 6 And the BRAVO protocol -- sorry -- just one more thing I
- 7 want to add -- you know, does review the evidence of
- 8 risks versus benefits.
- 9 And the Frank, et al., article here, which is
- 10 the second-to-last bullet point, speaks to a growing
- 11 number of studies showing that when these patients do
- 12 taper to lower doses or off of opioids, many of them
- 13 experience improvement in pain. So their pain actually
- 14 gets better or it gets no worse.
- 15 Q And has that been something that you have seen
- 16 in your clinical experience in treating patients who have
- 17 opioid dependence?
- 18 A Yes, it is.
- 19 Q And in addition to the medical and scientific
- 20 literature that you cite here for the proposition that
- 21 opioid dependence can be a difficult condition to treat,
- 22 is that also something that you see in your clinical
- 23 practice in treating patients who have opioid dependence?
- 24 A Yes. A growing number of patients in our clinic
- 25 expressly come to us for help with opioid tapering in the
- 26 context of opioid dependence. These are typically not



- 1 patients who meet criterion for opioid use disorder.
- 2 They are patients with chronic pain who have been taking
- 3 opioids for years exactly as prescribed by their doctor.
- 4 Q And I want to go through -- back to this issue
- 5 of breakthrough pain. And if you can turn to Slide 23.
- And you've identified here documents in evidence
- 7 as P-CA-1303, the 2005 document entitled "Actiq Marketing
- 8 Plan."
- 9 What is the relevance of P-CA-1303 to your
- 10 opinions here concerning breakthrough pain?
- 11 A I think it's important to make the distinction
- 12 that in somebody on hospice care who has 12 weeks to
- 13 live, and we're trying to relieve their agony at the end
- 14 of life and we give them opioids and they experience
- 15 breakthrough pain, in that context that it would very
- 16 much make sense to give them additional opioids on top of
- 17 that to ease their suffering because the amount of time
- 18 they have to live makes the issue of developing addiction
- 19 for that matter, you know, overdose irrelevant.
- 20 But in the context of treating chronic pain,
- 21 this notion of breakthrough pain, I think, has a very
- 22 deleterious effect because it then encouraged providers
- 23 to pile one opioid on top of another.
- 24 We were encouraged to have long-acting opioid
- 25 and then to prescribe additionally short-acting opioids
- 26 to be taken for, quote-unquote, breakthrough pain. If



- 1 there was breakthrough through the short-acting opioids,
- 2 we were encouraged to prescribe fast-acting opioids to
- 3 immediately target breakthrough pain using things like
- 4 transmucosal fentanyl products to squash the breakthrough
- 5 pain.
- 6 But the result of all of that, ultimately, is
- 7 that the patient ends up on higher and higher doses,
- 8 develops more tolerance to those doses, which then
- 9 requires higher doses of both the long-acting agent and
- 10 the short-acting agent for breakthrough pain, increasing
- 11 their risk of overdose and addiction.
- 12 Q And, Dr. Lembke, can you tell me, are there
- 13 risks to a patient while undergoing treatment for OUD or
- 14 opioid dependence?
- 15 A I'm not sure I understand your question.
- 16 Q Let me -- let me try it again.
- 17 Do patients who are undergoing treatment for
- 18 OUD, medically assisted treatment for OUD and dependence,
- 19 do those treatments present unique risks or independent
- 20 risks to patients?
- 21 A Okay. So the pharmacologic therapies that we
- 22 have for opioid use disorder consist of three
- 23 medications: buprenorphine, commonly referred to as
- 24 Suboxone; methadone maintenance provided in liquid form
- 25 through a methadone maintenance clinic; and naltrexone,
- 26 which is an opioid receptor blocker.



- 1 So just focusing on the first two,
- 2 buprenorphine -- both methadone and buprenorphine are
- 3 unique opioids in that they have a very long half life.
- 4 And the reason why that's helpful in the treatment of
- 5 opioid use disorder is because it gets individuals out of
- 6 this cycle of intoxication, withdrawal, and drug seeking,
- 7 which takes so much of their energy and creativity, and
- 8 it achieves this steady state.
- 9 Also buprenorphine has some additional features
- 10 that make it safer than other opioids. It is less likely
- 11 to cause respiratory suppression or respiratory
- 12 depression than other opioids, making it less likely to
- 13 result in accidental overdose, although it too can
- 14 contribute to accidental overdose, especially in
- 15 combination with other competing agents.
- 16 Q Dr. Lembke, in your opinion, are marketing
- 17 messages that suggest that opioid dependence is benign
- and easily reversible false and misleading?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q And did you go through some of the documents
- 21 that are in evidence in this case to find examples of
- 22 promotional messaging that suggests that opioid
- 23 dependence is benign and easily reversible?
- 24 A Yes, I did.
- 25 Q If we can go to Slide 24, Jon.
- Doctor -- do you want to take a quick break,



Page 2511 Doctor? 1 2 Α No. I'm okay. 3 Q Okay. I just wanted to make sure. What's up on the slide are document references 4 5 P-CA-1391, P-CA-399, and P-CA-251. 6 Are those examples of the Misrepresentation 7 Number 6, that is, "Physiological opioid dependence is 8 benign and easily reversible"? 9 Α Yes, they are. Okay. Can you explain to the Court why you 10 11 chose these three documents as examples of that marketing messaging? 12 13 Α Yes. So on the left-hand side, both of those messages 14 15 equate the physical dependence from opioids to dependence 16 that occurs to other medications. Although it is true that patients can habituate to blood pressure medications 17 like beta blockers, it's misleading to equate the 18 19 severity and morbidity associated with opioid dependence 20 and opioid withdrawal to that experienced when people 21 habituate to things like beta blockers. 22 Can I just clarify that what you're talking about on the left-hand side are references to P-CA-1391 23 24 and P-CA-399? 25 Α Yes. Right. 26 And then the other important thing here is



- 1 there's lots of misleading messaging that talks about
- 2 dependence and tolerance and withdrawal not having
- 3 anything to do with addiction. It's making this very
- 4 stark distinction between opioid use disorder and
- 5 physical dependence when, in fact, of the 11 criterion
- 6 the DSM-5 used to diagnose opioid use disorder, two of
- 7 those criteria are tolerance and withdrawal.
- 8 And these phenomena are linked. They are not
- 9 distinct phenomena.
- 10 Q And, Doctor, I want to turn now to something
- 11 that I believe you referenced earlier today, which was
- 12 the gateway effect. Can you explain to the Court what
- 13 the term -- what you mean by gateway effect?
- 14 MR. BRODY: Objection, your Honor; cumulative of
- 15 Dr. Stafford and Dr. Quick.
- 16 THE COURT: Ms. Fitzpatrick, what would be
- 17 different or additional about this?
- 18 MS. FITZPATRICK: Your Honor, I'm just laying --
- 19 truly in just a -- not too many questions -- of
- 20 Dr. Lembke's understanding of the gateway effect. And
- 21 I'm going to tie it together with laying a foundation
- 22 later and asking her ultimate opinions in this case about
- 23 the cause and effect.
- 24 THE COURT: I have not previously raised the
- 25 issue, nor have counsel, that the doctor has been asked
- 26 numerous questions that others have defined.



- 1 Breakthrough pain is one example. Chronic pain is
- 2 another example. The definition of opioid is another
- 3 example.
- 4 Cumulatively, these repetitive questions do take
- 5 up inordinate amounts of time. Unless it is essential to
- 6 redefine gateway effect, please just ask your questions.
- 7 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 8 Q Doctor, I'm just going to ask you just a couple
- 9 of questions here without going into too much detail.
- 10 Have you done research and looked at whether
- 11 both medical and nonmedical use of prescription opioids
- 12 can be gateways to heroin use?
- 13 A Yes, I have.
- 14 Q And do you, based on the research that you have
- 15 done in this case, and your experience in treating those
- 16 who suffer from OUD and opioid dependence, believe that
- 17 both medical and nonmedical use of prescription opioids
- 18 can be gateways to heroin use?
- MR. BRODY: Same objection, your Honor;
- 20 cumulative of Dr. Quick and Dr. Stafford.
- 21 THE COURT: Overruled.
- 22 THE WITNESS: Yes, I believe that the weight of
- 23 the evidence shows that exposure to prescription opioids,
- 24 whether obtained medically or nonmedically and used
- 25 medically or nonmedically, increases that individual's
- 26 risk of using heroin at a later date.



- 1 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 2 Q Dr. Lembke, I want to ask you some opinions in
- 3 this case. And I can do that since it's a bench trial.
- 4 I'm just going to ask you a series of questions, not what
- 5 your opinion is but to what's called lay the foundation
- 6 for the opinions. So just whether you have opinions or
- 7 not. Okay?
- 8 A Okay.
- 9 Q I don't want to run afoul of any of the Court
- 10 orders.
- 11 Earlier today you testified that prior to the
- 12 1990s, there was a conservative consensus against the use
- 13 of prescription opioids for the treatment of chronic
- 14 pain, correct?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q And as part of your professional research work
- 17 at Stanford in the areas of prescription opioids and
- 18 their use, have you investigated the rates in opioid
- 19 prescribing from the 1990s to the present?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q And you testified about those increased rates
- 22 earlier today, correct?
- 23 A Yes.
- 24 Q And as part of your professional work at
- 25 Stanford in the area of prescription opioids and OUD,
- 26 have you investigated what -- any of the potential causes



- of this increased rates of opioid prescribing from the
- 2 1990s to the present?
- 3 A Yes, I have.
- 4 Q And did you attempt, in doing that work, to
- 5 investigate factors that may have -- all factors that may
- 6 have contributed to this change in the conservative
- 7 consensus?
- 8 A Yes, I did.
- 9 Q And in doing this investigation, did you review
- 10 medical and scientific literature?
- 11 MR. KABA: Objection; leading.
- 12 THE COURT: Overruled.
- 13 THE WITNESS: Yes, I did.
- 14 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 15 Q And how did you go about selecting or reviewing
- 16 medical and scientific literature in order to reach your
- 17 opinions?
- 18 A I used search words to collect articles from the
- 19 literature. I specifically looked for articles that had
- 20 differences of opinion so as to not leave out any
- 21 perspective.
- 22 I looked at consensus statements from learned
- 23 bodies like the National Academies of Sciences,
- 24 Engineering, and Medicine and what they had concluded
- 25 from similar types of literature searches.
- 26 I compared my reading of the literature with the



- 1 documents provided by defendants in this case as well as
- 2 incorporated my own qualitative research, interviews I
- 3 had done with healthcare providers and patients.
- 4 Q Let me -- let me break this down, Dr. Lembke. I
- 5 just want to make sure that we're doing this.
- 6 So I had asked you about the medical and
- 7 scientific literature that you had researched. Was your
- 8 method of going about obtaining and reviewing that
- 9 medical, scientific literature when you were
- 10 investigating the factors that may have contributed to
- 11 the change in the conservative consensus -- was that
- 12 consistent with the research techniques that you
- 13 regularly utilize in your position at Stanford
- 14 University?
- 15 A Yes, it was. And I've included everything that
- 16 I reviewed in the materials considered, which is more
- 17 than 600 articles.
- 18 Q And is the methodology that you used to review
- 19 that medical and scientific -- to both obtain and to
- 20 review that medical and scientific literature -- is that
- 21 consistent with the way that research is done in your
- 22 field?
- 23 A Yes, that's a standard academic approach to
- 24 understanding the medical science.
- 25 Q Okay. And in addition to your review of, I
- 26 think, over 600 medical and scientific -- well, first of



- 1 all, let me ask this: The medical and scientific
- 2 literature that you reviewed and you relied on, did you
- 3 identify that in your expert report in this case?
- 4 A Yes, I did.
- 5 Q And have you also used that medical and
- 6 scientific literature for other academic publications by
- 7 you outside of an expert report in this case?
- 8 A Yes, I have.
- 9 Q And what academic publications are those?
- 10 A I and colleagues published an analysis of a 2013
- 11 Medicare database looking at what types of doctors are
- 12 prescribing opioids and found that opioid prescribing is
- 13 not --
- 14 Q I'm going to ask you to hold off on what the
- 15 actual opinions are. Doctor, I'm just asking you the
- 16 methodology for how you got there, if that's okay.
- 17 A Okay. So we analyzed Medicare Part D 2013
- 18 database. I've also published articles on the
- 19 appropriate perioperative use of buprenorphine, analyzing
- 20 the literature and taking expert consensus opinion. I've
- 21 published articles looking at the use generally of opioid
- 22 agonist therapy perioperatively in patients with opioid
- 23 use disorder.
- I've published articles -- and, again, this is
- 25 all with collaborators and colleagues -- looking at
- 26 weighing the risks, benefits, and alternatives of the use



- 1 of opioids in the treatment of chronic pain to deeply
- 2 understand what the evidence actually shows.
- 3 Q And, Doctor, I want to focus on the particular
- 4 issue of the factors that you investigated to
- 5 determine -- or to reach opinions on what contributed to
- 6 the change from the conservative consensus in the 19 --
- 7 prior to the 1990s, to the more liberal use of opioids in
- 8 the 2000s and beyond. Okay?
- 9 So focusing on that particular opinion, have you
- 10 reviewed the literature -- the medical and scientific
- 11 literature that you identified in your report here for
- 12 the support of those opinions? Have you also published
- 13 that -- those opinions and that work elsewhere relying on
- 14 the same literature?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q And where did you publish your research outside
- 17 of your expert opinion in this case -- or your expert
- 18 report in this case?
- 19 A Looking at that narrower question of how opioid
- 20 messaging impacted physician prescribing, my major
- 21 contribution to that literature is my book based on
- 22 qualitative interviews that I've done.
- 23 Q And what other information did you rely on
- 24 besides the medical and scientific literature to reach
- 25 your opinions on whether opioid messaging impacted
- 26 physician prescribing?



- 1 A Well, I looked at, you know, specific empirical
- 2 studies in this literature. I also looked at consensus
- 3 reports. For example, the May 2017 report in the
- 4 literature.
- I then compared what I found there to the
- 6 misleading messaging to try and see whether or not that
- 7 messaging was, in fact, informed by the science.
- 8 Q And going beyond whether the messaging was
- 9 actually informed by the science, what did you do to
- 10 determine whether that marketing -- those marketing
- 11 messages had an actual impact on access to or
- 12 availability of opioids?
- 13 A Um-hum.
- 14 Well, I think, first and foremost, again, I
- 15 interviewed stakeholders in the medical community to find
- 16 out what their exposure was to any marketing and
- 17 messaging material on opioids and how it impacted their
- 18 prescribing. And I also related it to my own personal
- 19 experience, having been the recipient of this messaging
- 20 in its heyday, and how -- how I was impacted by that
- 21 messaging as well as my clinical experience of seeing
- 22 patients being prescribed opioids from their doctors and
- 23 the impact that it had on those individuals.
- 24 Q And is that an accepted methodology in your
- 25 field to reach conclusions to answer the question of
- 26 whether the messaging material concerning opioids



- 1 impacted prescribing of opioids?
- 2 A Yes, it is.
- 3 Q And you have mentioned in there how -- your own
- 4 personal experience of having been a recipient of this
- 5 messaging. Can you tell us what your own personal
- 6 experience having been a recipient of this messaging was?
- 7 A Yes. I will say when I graduated from medical
- 8 school, I had received minimal training in addiction and
- 9 also minimal training in the treatment of pain. Very
- 10 limited hours dedicated to either of those subjects.
- 11 And then in my early career -- well, in my
- 12 residency, I was exposed to a gradual and iterative
- 13 paradigm shift that was influenced by messages like pain
- 14 is undertreated because physicians are opioidphobic and
- 15 we are, in fact, harming patients because we are
- 16 withholding opioids.
- 17 I remember when the Joint Commission came to my
- 18 hospital and told us that pain is the fifth vital sign
- 19 and that we should screen every patient for pain and
- 20 that, if we were not doing that and doing, quote-unquote,
- 21 everything in our power to target their pain, then we
- 22 were remiss and, in fact, violating to some extent their
- 23 right to pain treatment.
- 24 And I also, again, through my entire early
- 25 career starting in the late 1990s to approximately 2010,
- 26 was repeatedly inundated with the message that, as long



- 1 as I, the physician, am prescribing to a patient with a
- 2 bona fide and legitimate pain condition, their chances of
- 3 getting addicted to the opioid that I was prescribing
- 4 were so small as to be discounted, negligible, not an
- 5 area of concern.
- 6 Q And, Doctor, going beyond your own personal
- 7 experience --
- 8 THE COURT: Ms. Fitzpatrick, just before you ask
- 9 the question, would you take the slide down since it
- 10 dominates the screen?
- 11 MS. FITZPATRICK: I'm so sorry, your Honor.
- 12 THE COURT: Thank you.
- 13 BY MS. FITZPATRICK:
- 14 Q Okay. And, Doctor, going beyond your own
- 15 personal experience, did you reach opinions in this case
- 16 as to whether the marketing misrepresentations that you
- 17 identified, the six misrepresentations, influenced or
- 18 were a cause of increased prescribing of opioids?
- 19 A Yes. I believe that the false and misleading --
- 20 MR. BRODY: I'm sorry, your Honor. The question
- 21 was simply whether she had reached opinions. I object on
- 22 foundation grounds to the expression of those opinions.
- 23 THE COURT: At this stage the question just
- 24 calls for a yes or a no.
- 25 THE WITNESS: Can you restate the question,
- 26 please.



Page 2522 BY MS. FITZPATRICK: 1 2 Doctor, going beyond your own personal 3 experience, did you reach opinions in this case as to whether the marketing misrepresentations that you 4 5 identified, the six misrepresentations that we discussed, were -- caused an increased prescribing of opioids by 7 physicians? 8 Yes, I did reach an opinion about that. Α 9 And what is that opinion? MR. BRODY: I object, your Honor; lack of 10 foundation. 11 THE COURT: Overruled. 12 MR. KABA: Your Honor, I would also join in that 13 objection and note that the witness testified -- when the 14 15 witness was testifying as to foundation, or the attempt to lay foundation, one of the first things she said was 16 she interviewed stakeholders in the medical community to 17 18 find out about exposure to marketing and messaging. That 19 is hearsay. 20 And insofar as it's driving an opinion with respect to the plaintiff-specific jurisdiction, it's 21 22 case-specific hearsay for which no exception applies. So I would add a hearsay objection on top of the 23



THE COURT: The objection is overruled.

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foundation objection.

BY MS. FITZPATRICK:

Page 2523 And, Dr. Lembke, what is your opinion? 1 2 My opinion is that the false and misleading 3 messages on the part of the defendants was a significant factor in opioid overprescribing and the development of 4 5 the opioid epidemic. 6 MS. FITZPATRICK: Your Honor, we have nothing 7 further. THE COURT: Dr. Lembke, as is apparent, you will 8 9 need to come back. I think rather than have examination 10 start at this hour, I'm going to adjourn at this time. The defendants will begin their cross-examination at 11 9:00 a.m. 12 Now that the examination has concluded, under 13 the rules applicable to this trial, you are not allowed 14 to discuss your testimony with the People's counsel. 15 Please take that seriously. 16 THE WITNESS: Yes, I will, your Honor. 17 THE COURT: We are adjourned until 9:00 a.m. 18 19 tomorrow morning. Thank you. 20 MS. FITZPATRICK: Thank you, your Honor. 21 (Conclusion of proceedings at 4:14 p.m.) 22 23 24 25 26



REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Carolyn Gregor, CSR NO. 2351, approved court reporter pro tempore, do hereby certify that the foregoing Reporter's Transcript; consisting of pages through 2523, is a full, true and correct transcription of my shorthand notes thereof, and a full, true and correct statement of the proceedings had in said cause, taken via Zoom, to the best of my ability.

Dated at Newport Beach, California, this 18th day of May, 2021.

CAROLYN GREGOR, CSR 2351, CRR, CM, RDR
COURT APPROVED REPORTER PRO TEMPORE



A	2515:23	2347:21	2479:9	2449:13
aarnold@mot	academy 2345:4	activity 2347:25	2480:12	2451:10,26
2:17	2345:16,19	2348:15,18	2481:9 2482:6	2452:26
abandoning	2349:2,17,23	2375:22	2482:14,26	2453:5,10
2416:25	2488:9 2489:8	actual 2446:22	2521:3	2454:3,14,21
aberrant	acceptable	2447:14	addiction	2456:7
2474:22	2343:21	2483:9	2357:16	2462:18
ability 2375:26	accepted	2517:15	2393:22,24,25	2463:2,12,24
2461:1	2347:13	2519:11	2393:26	2464:24
2330:13	2519:24	acute 2435:10	2394:25	2465:6 2467:6
able 2337:5	access 2421:22	2439:5	2395:4,20,24	2467:10,15
2346:21	2434:7	2485:15,16,19	2395:25	2468:6,15
2347:8,9	2435:26	2485:22	2396:2,8,15,24	2469:10,18
2352:14	2436:6,13	2494:5	2397:4,17,20	2473:4 2474:7
2355:7 2359:4	2437:12	ADAM 5:4	2398:1,4,7	2476:16,20,24
2374:3 2378:4	2446:7,12	adam.teitcher	2399:2,5	2483:2 2493:1
2381:15	2519:11	5:7	2404:2,3,6	2494:8
2386:7	accessible	add 2370:15	2405:18,20	2508:18
2387:17	2361:18	2373:9	2406:1,20,26	2509:11
2407:8	accidental	2401:14	2407:16,22	2512:3 2520:8
2419:18	2343:8,10	2483:23	2408:11,17,24	addictions
2430:8	2383:17,18	2507:7	2410:23	2396:21
2434:21	2408:11	2522:23	2411:10	2405:21
2444:23	2510:13,14	addicted	2413:18,21	2418:5
2483:7	acclaimed	2401:12	2417:19,22	addictive
abruptly	2458:2	2405:18	2419:21	2427:19
2504:26	accommodate	2411:17	2424:26	2428:4 2429:8
absence 2490:3	2504:23	2413:10	2425:4,7,10,11	2434:1
abstinence	accomplished	2418:11	2425:12,18,19	2436:16
2435:13	2441:24	2419:2 2426:6	2426:3,5	2440:14
abuse 2451:10	accurate 2335:8	2427:18	2429:21	2458:6,8,8,11
2475:23	achieves 2510:8	2429:7	2430:7	2458:24
2478:16	acknowledging	2433:10,12,24	2431:18	2482:18
abuse-deterrent	2397:19	2433:26	2432:1,14	addicts 2461:26
2439:14,22	acronym 2348:5	2434:10,14,24	2433:14,15,20	2478:16
abusing 2429:8	Actavis 1:14,14	2436:15	2433:21,25	2482:22
academic	5:2,3,10,10,10	2439:25	2434:5,7	addition
2404:6	5:11,11	2440:3 2454:9	2435:1,2	2346:22
2419:11	acting 1:4,5	2458:9 2473:4	2436:9,11	2348:22,24
2440:25	action 2380:24	2473:8,12,16	2437:6 2438:1	2377:19
2516:23	2384:21	2473:17,19	2438:7 2439:8	2386:18
2517:6,9	actions 2363:9	2474:5 2476:2	2439:12	2398:11
Academies	Actiq 2508:7	2477:13,20	2440:15	2402:8,22
2438:12	activities	2478:8,18	2446:15	2404:11
			l	l



				Tage 2
2412:16	admissibility	Adults 2457:18	2496:13	ambulance
2417:8	2330:20	2460:18	agreement	2340:21
2419:24	2392:4	advent 2440:22	2330:20	ambulances
2420:20	admission	adverse 2453:21	ahead 2451:6	2375:4
2462:25	2331:5	2453:23	aid 2348:26	amended
2507:19	2332:16	adversely	2349:2	2333:14
2516:25	2362:16	2418:25	al 2449:23	American
additional	2364:16	adviser 2396:2,6	2451:10	2396:2,7,10,11
2361:8	2371:7,12	advocate	2474:21,26	2457:25
2390:19	2455:16	2440:26	2475:8,22	2458:2
2421:19,22	admissions	advocated	2476:4,10,19	2478:20
2484:3	2335:18	2489:4	2488:5	2483:12
2508:16	2437:6	advocating	2498:19	2488:9 2489:8
2510:9	admit 2332:20	2440:23	2500:7,9,11	2489:9 2502:1
2510:3	2362:20	affect 2356:14	2507:9	Americans
additionally	2367:2,9	2356:17	Alameda 2357:6	2408:5
2371:12	2370:20	2432:9	2372:6	amount 2356:10
2508:25	2392:8 2496:1	afoul 2514:9	alaurendeau	2370:18
address 2332:18	admitted 7:8	aftereffect	4:11	2428:7 2429:1
2334:13	2330:13,18,25	2429:11	alcohol 2405:19	2446:22
2336:3	2331:2,12,24	2432:24	2476:14	2447:9,10
2407:11	2332:8,9,11,12	afternoon	alike 2415:4	2448:8 2502:8
addressed	2332:15,22	2332:4	Allergan	2506:25
2330:16	2333:3,4,9,15	2392:24	2335:22	2508:17
addressing	2333:16,19	2431:1,3	2385:11,15	amounts
2373:7	2334:7 2360:3	2484:18	allow 2335:1	2499:25
adds 2464:12	2362:8	age 2489:11	2350:3 2412:6	2513:5
adequate	2365:20	agencies 2442:1	allowed 2523:14	Amy 4:6,7
2422:13	2368:22	Agency 2334:12	allows 2428:9	2377:3 2391:1
adjourn	2369:12,13	agent 2509:9,10	2432:7	ANA 2330:1
2523:10	2370:16	agents 2510:15	2465:21,21	analgesia
adjourned	2372:19	aggregate	allude 2498:10	2461:1
2390:13	2390:19,22,22	2450:6	all-day 2400:18	2486:24
2484:15	2391:5,8,17,17	ago 2347:19	altered 2424:4	analgesic
2523:18	2392:8,10,12	2404:13	alternatives	2426:15
administer	2392:14	2408:3	2517:26	2427:3,10,11
2384:3	2455:22	2416:12	altogether	2447:23
administering	2481:3	agonist 2411:9	2505:10	2506:15
2341:3	admitting	2431:21	alucas@omm	analysis
administration	2334:11	2517:22	4:10	2371:18
2366:2 2374:4	2362:21	agony 2508:13	AL-CA-300050	2445:16
2397:9	2363:8,10,22	agree 2331:1	2498:4	2458:18
administrations	2371:18	2379:18	ambiguity	2492:3
2373:26	adult 2361:4	agreed 2330:19	2391:2,10	2517:10
			,	
L				



				rage 3
analyzed 2449:5	answering	appendix	2469:21	2350:19,22
2449:7	2468:12	2488:12	2485:4	2394:22
2517:17	answers 2352:7	applicable	2492:18	2394.22
analyzing	anticipate	2523:14	2492.18	2514:17
2517:19	2336:25	application	2493:22	arena 2397:20
ANDREA 3:11	2337:4	* *		
ANDREW 2:12		2368:1,5,7,9 2368:13	2497:19,25 2517:19	argue 2490:8 ARNOLD 2:12
and/or 2425:14	anticipating 2336:24	2371:2		4:22
2446:4			appropriately 2336:16	
2470:22	antidepressants	applied 2345:10		aross@counse 3:13
2470:22 2493:18	2407:25,26 antidote	2369:7,14 2370:13	approval	arrest 2348:20
	2344:23	2370:13	2368:12,14	
anesthesia 2412:20			approved 1:26 1:26 2370:12	arthritis
	anti-inflamm	applies 2522:22		2460:13
2413:2	2502:16	apply 2420:14	2330:7,19	article 2422:2,3
anesthesiology	Anton 5:6	appointment	approximate	2422:5,5
2412:18	anybody 2347:4	2394:24	2374:3,7	2449:23
Angeles 3:10,10	2433:12	2395:5,13	approximately	2453:17
3:12 4:9,18,24	2435:25	2397:16	2331:22	2470:14
angles 2419:15	2473:18	2412:19,21,22	2336:24	2475:14,17
Anna 2390:24	2482:12,24	2412:26,26	2339:5,9	2488:12,13,16
2392:23	apart 2405:7	2413:1 2466:7	2340:7,19,20	2488:21,25
2393:10,16	apologies	2466:15,23	2341:10	2489:5,7
Annals 2500:18	2337:22	appreciably	2345:8,24,26	2498:17,19
Anne 2366:16	2372:24	2441:4,8	2346:12	2500:9 2507:9
answer 2333:24	apologize	appreciate	2347:19	articles 2474:18
2347:3 2353:8	2331:20	2392:13	2373:17,17	2487:13
2355:7 2368:3	2332:25	2447:17	2374:8	2515:18,19
2376:12	2333:22	2489:10	2441:11	2516:17
2378:14	2482:1	apprehend	2447:5,8	2517:18,21,24
2381:9,12	apparent	2348:3	2448:6	aside 2453:14
2384:13	2523:8	approach	2485:24	2497:13,16
2401:26	appear 2330:23	2417:1	2520:25	asked 2355:5,12
2410:25	2469:12	2516:23	Arbitblit 2421:7	2382:24
2442:10	appearances 2:1	approached	arbitrary	2383:22
2443:19,21,22	3:1 4:1 5:1,18	2421:6	2450:4	2392:8
2444:7 2445:1	appeared	approaching	archive 2361:22	2421:19
2470:10	2469:15	2488:19	area 2344:6	2496:8,24
2474:13	2472:12	appropriate	2346:8	2497:3
2504:5,9	appearing	2330:18	2352:21	2512:25
2519:25	2330:7	2336:11	2394:24	2516:6
answered	appears	2360:9	2514:25	asking 2341:14
2341:21	2390:20	2371:22	2521:5	2344:24
2383:22	2431:6	2407:24	areas 2346:7	2355:9
2410:4	2483:19	2410:22	2348:15	2402:14
<u> </u>				



				Page 4
2421.7			2445:20	2450:1.0
2421:7	assumption 2391:25	available 2375:4	2445:20	2459:1,9
2465:22		2375:6 2380:9	2446:23	2466:3
2512:22	attempt 2433:7	2380:19	2450:10	2469:23
2517:15	2464:17	2381:9,13	2453:2	2473:14
asleep 2353:24	2515:4	Avenue 4:8	2455:25	2513:14
2427:8	2522:15	average 2448:4	2457:15	2518:21
aspects 2395:19	attend 2340:3	2451:16,26	2461:10	baseline 2412:7
2432:8	2400:18	2473:12,15,17	2469:3	2446:21
assert 2493:22	attended 2340:9	2476:2	2473:10	basic 2423:20
assertions	2402:4	2477:19	2475:15	2485:6
2477:12	attention	2478:8,12	2484:19,26	basically
assess 2376:21	2375:14	2479:9	2486:4,5	2358:24
2378:4	2409:20	2480:11	2490:15	2366:14
assessment	2443:13	2481:9 2482:5	2491:16	basing 2459:5
2378:5,6	2462:1 2503:3	2482:15,21	2499:5,7	basis 2332:10
2488:10	2503:7	averaged	2506:17	2360:8 2413:6
assigned	attested 2453:16	2450:11	2508:4 2523:9	2437:20,21
2338:25	attesting 2443:3	avoid 2388:3	background	2444:5 2448:9
2345:8,22,24	Attorney 1:6	aware 2378:10	2341:13	2454:25
2347:2,11	3:15	2378:15	2350:6	2459:18
2348:24	Attorneys 2:8	2388:8,11,12	2412:14	2467:17
assignment	Attorney's	2388:15,26	2423:19	2468:16
2376:6	2337:9	2493:2	Baker 2:9	2470:2,5,12
assist 2347:9	audience 2405:1	awareness	2335:23	2480:17
assistant 2341:2	2405:2 2422:1	2343:22	2336:4,4,14	Bates 2332:1
2366:14	audio 2430:14	a.m 2330:3	balance 2427:25	2333:5
assisted 2509:18	auspices	2523:12,18	2428:1,5,14,17	Beach 2:5
associated	2398:14		2428:21,26	2330:14
2342:17	authenticate	B	2429:12,17,18	beat 2347:8,10
2350:24	2369:19	back 2330:10	2429:25	becoming
2354:8,20	authenticated	2331:10	2430:4,9	2420:10
2435:22	2369:19	2332:2	2431:13,25	2433:24
2462:9 2493:7	authorizing	2336:12	2432:18,19,26	2454:9 2473:8
2511:19	2366:11	2375:22	2435:13	2482:14,26
association	authors 2450:8	2390:16	bar 2476:25	began 2350:18
2437:25,26	2452:15	2391:15	base 2411:10	2376:2
2438:6,16	2469:18	2398:25	based 2343:12	2381:23
2457:26	2487:18	2405:14	2344:1 2350:9	2395:10
2458:2	2488:21	2406:21	2355:8	2409:19
assume 2387:1	2489:20	2416:7	2372:22	2417:18,24
assumes	2491:26	2417:15	2422:12,17,18	2418:21
2477:23	availability	2429:24,24	2422:20	2440:19,25
Assuming	2442:21	2431:4	2426:20	2443:23
2372:13	2519:12	2438:23	2446:25	beginning
	1	1		1



				rage 3
2346:16	2353:14	2387:26	blocker 2509:26	2364:2,6,21
2373:20	2384:8,17	2388:2 2438:5	blockers	2367:21
2373.20	2488:2	2441:17	2511:18,21	2369:9,17
2441:10	2503:23	2483:19,24	blood 2511:17	2372:3
behalf 2338:8	believes 2373:6	2493:3 2496:8	blue 2354:17	2373:17
2368:10,17	2483:18	2498:14	Blvd 2:13	2374:26
2386:20	believing 2416:4	2518:8 2519:8	board 2347:5	2376:22
2393:11	bench 2334:11	2521:6,14	2396:2,7,10,11	2377:3
2405:8	2514:3	2522:2	2400:17,17	2379:18,24
behavior	benefit 2408:1	bias 2490:12	2400:17,17	2383:9,25
2474:22	2506:6 2507:5	2492:1	Boards 2415:26	2385:5
behavioral	benefiting	biased 2490:9	2443:6	2386:16
2407:19	2408:9	big 2428:18	board-certified	2389:11,19
behaviors	benefits 2487:12	2447:21	2395:2,3	2390:5,8
2468:2	2487:16	bigger 2460:10	2396:4,14	2390:3,8 Bordona's
belief 2370:24	2492:7,8	biggest 2380:8	BOCKIUS 5:3	2381:6
2373:1 2380:3	2506:4 2507:8	2380:17	bodies 2415:24	bottle 2352:11
believe 2331:26	2517:26	2446:14	2441:26	2424:22
2332:20	benign 2504:12	2482:10	2515:23	bottles 2344:7
2336:10	2505:5,17	2482:10	body 2413:25	2354:10
2340:11,19	2506:20	binds 2423:22	2414:6	bottom 2451:9
2352:19	2510:17,23	biological	2460:10	2484:3 2500:7
2352:19	2510:17,25	2433:25	2492:6	Boulevard 5:6
2355:5	Bernstein	biologically	2492:6	boxes 2456:4
2356:26	2421:7,17	2438:8	2505:6	brain 2412:7
2359:14	best 2354:12	biopsychosocial	bona 2521:2	2424:20,24
2364:1 2371:4	2375:26	2425:12	Bonnard 2500:9	2427:16,18,24
2374:15	2376:19	2423.12	book 2414:9,11	2428:7,9,12,15
2380:5	2490:6	bit 2351:10	2414:22	2428:19
2381:26	2330:13	2377:7	2415:1,6,10,11	2429:6,19,19
2386:24	beta 2511:18,21	2398:26	2415:14,14,17	2432:14,15
2387:13	better 2376:5	2400:12	2415:19	2432:14,13
2391:8	2404:5	2406:20	2421:9	brains 2411:24
2404:17	2417:26	2440:4	2422:22	brain's 2428:19
2446:14	2429:23	2449:16,21	2442:23	brass 2366:14
2450:17	2434:23	2450:10	2445:11,17	BRAVO
2462:23	2474:4,17,22	2474:16	2448:24	2416:11,23
2490:5 2495:1	2479:22,23	2483:5 2507:2	2518:21	2506:18,22
2501:4,7	2507:14	black-and-wh	boots 2347:26	2507:3,6
2503:18	beyond 2361:8	2375:13	Bordona 6:7	break 2333:24
2512:11	2363:25	blanket 2332:7	2337:10,16	2351:9
2513:16,22	2370:11,26	2332:16	2338:5,7,16	2352:13
2521:19	2384:10	bleeding	2355:18	2390:12
believed	2386:25	2502:20	2360:13	2450:10
			1	•



2474:15	Brody 4:7	3:17,21 4:9,18	2433:2	2520:11,25
2484:15	2401:24,24	4:24 5:6	2439:14	carefully
2510:26	2442:3	Cabraser	2440:5	2411:19,20
2516:4	2443:18	2421:7,16	2442:19	Caregivers
breakthrough	2465:12	cadre 2348:25	2459:6,14	2461:18
2506:9,10,14	2479:11	CALCAGNIE	2461:24	Carolina 2:13
2508:5,10,15	2480:13	2:3,4	2475:4	Carolyn 1:26
2508:21,26	2512:14	calculations	2499:11	2330:7,19
2509:1,3,4,10	2513:19	2451:16	2514:5	carry 2359:4
2513:1	2521:20	California 1:1,4	calling 2390:23	2492:26
breathing	2522:10	2330:1	calls 2342:23,25	carrying 2359:7
2427:6	broke 2431:11	2357:11,13,14	2346:4 2347:7	case 2336:9,17
BRIAN 5:5	2431:21	2366:22	2375:23	2337:2,5
brian.ercole@	broken 2430:9	2372:6 2391:7	2521:24	2344:20
5:8	2431:13,25	2392:15	camera 2417:10	2362:18,25
bridge 2357:12	building	2400:18,21	cancer 2460:13	2367:12
2357:13,14	2413:12	2402:3 2405:9	2498:13	2370:23
2366:22	bulk 2408:22	2407:8 2420:4	candidly	2373:2
2428:11	bullet 2507:10	2438:19,21	2495:22	2385:15
Bridgeside 2:13	buprenorphine	2460:4	candles 2354:13	2394:2 2419:5
brief 2334:11	2410:15,20	2463:14	capacity	2419:26
2390:15	2411:9,13,18	2330:14	2365:22	2420:16,20,26
2439:4	2431:22	call 2335:7,25	2381:4	2421:5,15,20
2484:17	2509:23	2337:10	2395:12	2421:23
briefing	2510:2,2,9	2347:3,4,5	capped 2356:21	2422:9,16,19
2346:17	2517:19	2375:22	car 2375:13	2422:25
briefly 2336:5	burdensome	2379:12	card 2495:20	2424:15
2339:23	2462:7	2392:23	Cardiac	2431:6
2355:2 2358:8	buried 2488:11	2405:20	2493:12	2442:17
2358:12	BURK 4:16	2413:13	care 2341:5	2448:15
2363:13	business	2428:15	2397:21	2449:5
2369:21	2362:10,18	2436:4	2400:11	2454:13,18,21
2381:19	2399:17	2456:18	2401:19	2464:10
2386:13	2496:10,16	2457:19	2406:7 2415:8	2469:15,16,24
2389:15	buy 2424:22	2463:6,23	2415:25	2470:1,6
2422:14	BYER 5:14	2469:20	2440:23	2471:7,9
2459:11	bystanders	called 2338:8	2441:22	2480:4 2481:3
bring 2428:21	2346:6	2347:4 2386:1	2489:13	2481:7,14
2474:6	B-O-R-D-O-N	2393:11	2508:12	2488:22
broad 2453:14	2338:5	2414:12	career 2344:25	2489:24
broader		2417:13	2344:26	2492:1
2498:20		2424:2,15	2400:16	2494:10,21,25
broadly 2425:17	C 2:9 4:14	2428:11,23	2402:12,17	2497:18
2433:21	CA 2:5 3:6,12	2432:23	2417:25	2498:7
		l	l	<u> </u>



				rage /
2501.11 15	2209.1 4	CERTIFICA	Chicago 5.15	2475:24
2501:11,15 2510:21	2398:1,4 2467:15	2330:1	Chicago 5:15 chief 2366:9,10	2475:24
2510.21	2468:8,15	certification	2366:11,13,14	2485:4,7,8,10
2513:15	2522:6	2361:3	2366:16	2485:14,19
2514:3 2516:1	causes 2389:21	certified 2361:2	2393:24	2486:1,2,4
2517:3,7	2419:6	certify 2330:8	2396:15	2487:23
2518:17,18	2420:12	cetera 2453:26	2397:3	2488:4,7,14,20
2518.17,18	2468:7,17	chain 2366:7	chiefs 2366:15	2489:3,4
2522:3	2514:26	2368:15,16	2381:26	2491:23
cases 2367:12	caustic 2436:21	championed	chief's 2361:24	2492:8,13,16
case-specific	CDC 2416:13	2474:2	childhood	2492:20
2443:20	2420:7	chance 2334:8	2434:3	2493:5,23
2522:22	2498:26	2434:24	choose 2456:9	2494:14
categories	ceiling 2502:3,6	2474:4,17,22	2472:9	2497:20,25
2365:19	2502:7	chances 2521:2	chooses 2330:21	2498:22
categorized	cellular 2502:11	change 2346:24	chose 2456:15	2499:3,26
2433:21	Center 1:2	2389:24	2461:14	2500:12
category	2338:26	2440:4 2515:6	2478:6	2500:12
2450:18	2347:20,22	2516:11	2487:24	2505:8,20
causal 2437:13	2348:7	2518:6	2498:6	2506:23
2438:2	centers 2437:7	changed 2335:3	2511:11	2508:2,20
2442:18	central 2407:5	2376:19	Chou 2488:5,16	2513:1
2468:20,20,24	2427:9,20,26	2411:25	2488:25	2514:13
causality	2428:25	changes	2491:18	2518:1
2437:21	Century	2354:24	CHRISTOPH	chronically
causation	2417:13	2355:6,19	2:10	2429:18
2504:6	Cephalon 5:2	2356:2,5	chronic 2396:24	2493:12
causative	2490:24	2412:2 2418:6	2397:2 2401:9	churches 2351:2
2403:21	2491:12	2493:11	2404:2	circuitry
2446:14	Ceres 2345:9	changing	2407:18,20,22	2428:12
cause 2412:2	certain 2385:21	2484:14	2407:25	circumstance
2424:26	2421:12	channels 2463:6	2413:10	2375:8
2425:6	2431:12	chaotic 2434:2	2414:20	circumstances
2437:10	2440:24	charge 2366:17	2416:20	2385:21
2460:12	2448:13	CHARLES 4:8	2417:2,4	cite 2507:20
2463:13	2506:25	check 2331:10	2418:26	cited 2458:13
2464:3,24	certainly 2334:6	2332:2	2419:1,13,18	2497:18
2502:23	2334:9	checkout 2347:2	2419:22	citizen 2375:12
2510:11	2385:18,22	chemical	2432:9,11,16	city 3:15,15
2512:23	2467:2	2396:23,24	2435:21	2337:9
2521:18	certainty	2397:1	2451:11	2338:18,21
2330:12	2377:10	2407:15	2454:4	2345:9
caused 2377:15	2379:15	chemicals	2458:12	2347:24
2384:9,18	2382:25	2394:26	2460:25	2348:4
	l			l



				rage o
2356:11	client's 2385:26	CMR 1:26	2468:25	commencing
2363:11	clifland 4:11	coauthored	College 2340:4	2333:17
2364:6 2366:5	clinic 2393:25	2368:6	COLLIE 5:4	Commission
2370:12	2396:16,18,25	2469:16	colocated	2415:26
Citywide 2351:8	2397:4,6,9,10	cocaine 2378:19	2427:22	2443:7
claim 2453:10	2405:17,23	cochair 2490:20	COLOMBO	2520:17
2456:6	2407:21	2490:22	2:12	committees
2459:19,25	2408:12	cochairs	color 2388:16	2396:7
claims 2448:19	2413:7	2488:21	2388:23	common
2454:13	2416:21,21	2490:17,21	combination	2354:11
Clara 1:5 3:2,3	2418:19	cocreated	2423:7	2375:11
clarification	2448:5,10	2357:17	2510:15	2439:25
2332:4	2505:25	cocreation	combinations	2448:13
2391:13	2507:24	2357:5	2378:16,18	2453:24,25,25
2392:14	2509:25	code 2362:11	come 2335:2	2454:10,11,20
clarified	clinical 2340:20	codeine 2424:1	2354:14	2458:9
2391:10	2340:21	cognition	2388:24	2461:22
clarify 2502:5	2395:14	2493:13	2396:22	2478:7
2511:22	2397:12	cognitive	2397:6 2407:4	2479:16
Clark 2474:20	2398:12,14,16	2343:22	2408:12	2480:2
2474:26	2398:19,21	2407:19	2409:19	2495:25
class 2404:20	2405:4,14,15	cohabitants	2416:7	2502:2,16
classes 2399:18	2406:7,21	2358:24	2423:14	commonly
classic 2395:13	2412:23	cohort 2407:17	2429:4 2430:3	2425:20
2472:11	2417:9	2500:12	2433:15	2478:13
2505:1	2422:20	coins 2352:11	2441:6 2466:3	2509:23
classroom	2426:20	collaborate	2507:25	communicate
2340:18	2475:25	2413:16	2523:9	2414:16
clean 2354:15	2488:6 2489:2	collaboration	comedown	2428:10
clear 2370:6	2490:21	2413:14	2429:2	2472:8
2462:12	2491:17	2443:9	comes 2376:7,16	2483:26
2468:13	2502:12	2457:25	2424:22	2502:12
2483:8	2506:17	2458:1	2434:12	communicated
2503:16	2507:16,22	collaborators	2447:23	2457:2
cleared 2391:3	2519:21	2517:25	coming 2336:8	2483:26
clearly 2438:14	clock-watching	colleagues	2387:16	communication
clerical 2392:5	2486:24	2385:5 2413:3	2391:26	2413:14
Clerk 2337:13	closely 2450:16	2413:8,15	2409:6 2410:5	2497:4
2337:15,20,23	closer 2458:3	2414:17	2413:9	community
2338:3,6	clues 2377:8,9	2445:2 2504:5	2418:10	2346:11,13,21
2393:1,3,14,17	2379:14	2517:10,25	2422:11	2347:9
2484:21,23	CM 2330:19	collect 2429:16	command	2348:10,12
clerk's 5:18	cmoriarty@m	2515:18	2366:7	2350:12,15,25
2333:18	2:15	collectively	2368:15,16	2351:7
			<u> </u>	



				Page 9
02.52 10.02	l .,	2466 2 2470 1	ps , s	l .,
2353:19,22	comprised	2466:3 2470:1	confirmation	consider
2354:6,24	2405:16	2523:21	2383:1	2417:22
2355:20	compulsive	conclusions	confirmed	2453:20
2356:3,6,13,17	2425:13	2445:17	2390:18	2459:4
2363:3 2372:7	computer	2452:10	2483:16	2488:16
2374:18	2347:5	2519:25	confirms	considerably
2376:8,17	concept 2403:6	condition	2372:13	2446:6
2389:12	2473:1	2454:10	conflict 2489:17	considered
2440:17	concepts	2461:6 2470:2	2490:16	2411:20
2441:23	2406:20	2478:14	conflicts 2450:9	2449:5,6
2468:1 2474:8	2472:3,7	2482:26	2452:16	2459:24
2519:15	conceptual	2486:17	2489:22	2516:16
2522:17	2453:23	2493:18	confusing	considering
community's	concern 2521:5	2504:25	2371:20	2485:19
2443:13	concerning	2505:15	confusion	consist 2509:22
COMPANY 1:9	2402:11	2507:21	2370:7 2467:2	consisted
compare	2420:4,11	2521:2	Congress	2401:6
2481:17	2445:21	conditions	2403:13,15	consistency
compared	2452:10	2406:23	2404:12	2437:22
2445:6 2450:5	2454:14	2407:13	2405:6	2438:5 2479:2
2459:12	2463:21	2414:20	2463:21	consistent
2465:7 2476:5	2472:21	2424:26	2464:1	2397:11
2476:16	2476:1 2479:4	2460:8	conjunction	2450:8,18
2515:26	2488:3	conduct	2466:7,15,23	2463:5 2465:8
2519:5	2494:24	2348:16	2489:8	2465:24
comparing	2496:15	conducting	connect 2468:18	2466:21
2446:19,22	2498:8	2348:19	conscientious	2469:18
comparison	2501:24	2349:1	2397:11	2472:18
2435:3	2505:17	2366:13	consensus	2488:3
compassionate	2508:10	conferred	2438:10	2516:12,21
2417:1	2519:26	2482:11	2485:13	consisting
compensation	concerns	conferring	2514:12	2330:9
2460:3,5	2370:21	2436:5	2515:7,22	consolidated
competing	2411:14	confidence	2516:11	2392:6
2510:15	2416:26	2451:18	2517:20	consortium
completely	concluded	2452:5	2518:6 2519:2	2438:17
2406:18	2487:18	confident	conservative	constantly
completing	2515:24	2451:21	2441:15	2412:8 2432:4
2400:16	2523:13	confirm	2514:12	constipation
complex 1:2	concluding	2332:21	2515:6	2493:10
2415:20	2470:16	2341:22	2516:11	constitutes
2425:12	conclusion	2343:23,24	2518:6	2392:15
components	2445:9	2345:5 2386:2	conservatively	consult 2413:3
2361:8	2465:10,13	2386:7	2440:18	consultations
	ĺ			



1				rage 10
2490:7	2260.7.10	2437:14	2204.14	2400.22.25
	2360:7,10		2384:14	2400:23,25
consulting 2488:22	2402:9,15	control 2428:12	correlation	2404:26 2411:16
	2408:20	controlled	2464:22	_
2490:7	2413:11	2434:12	correspond	2439:1
consults	2418:13	controversial	2450:16	2445:11
2413:13	2429:1,15	2418:24	Costa 5:6	2464:17
consumer	2430:10	cool 2343:18	COUCH 2:10	2471:12
2478:23,24	2431:8	coordinator	counsel 1:5 2:1	2474:23
consumers	2435:15	2357:11	3:2,10 2330:7	2496:23
2457:3,6	2447:24,25	corner 2434:9	2332:13	court 1:1,26,26
contact 2375:23	continued 3:1	Corporate 2:5	2360:10	2330:9
2384:5	4:1 5:1	correct 2343:25	2372:15	2331:14,18,22
2415:13	2375:18,24	2345:11	2431:8	2332:6 2333:2
contain 2368:25	2376:1	2360:14	2512:25	2333:13,26
contained	2395:11	2377:11,12,19	2523:15	2334:3,10,21
2391:12	2401:13,21	2378:1,8,9,12	counterfeit	2334:23
2461:13	2402:18	2378:20,24	2388:9,22	2335:8,13,24
2467:4	2403:3	2379:1,10,16	counterintuiti	2336:14
contains	2418:16,18	2379:26	2412:6	2337:6,13,25
2352:11	2425:13	2380:10,19,20	2431:26	2338:11
2359:21	2431:14	2380:22,24	country 2399:4	2339:7
2362:11	continuing	2381:24	2438:18	2341:16
2363:19	2400:23	2382:5,13	counts 2493:24	2344:20
2371:17	2402:25	2383:13,15,16	County 1:2,5,5	2351:20
content 2444:6	2502:8 2506:4	2383:20	3:2,2,3,10,10	2352:3 2353:7
contention	2506:6 2507:5	2384:5,9,18,22	2334:12	2355:1,4,9,13
2467:10	contrasting	2384:26	2341:7,9	2355:22
contents	2446:22	2385:2,20,23	2357:7 2372:7	2356:8 2357:2
2362:13	contribute	2386:2,8,20	couple 2404:12	2359:20,24
2363:22	2434:4	2387:12,20,24	2412:14	2360:1
2364:13	2436:11	2388:10,14,17	2488:2 2513:8	2361:20
2370:11,16	2510:14	2394:2,3	coupon 2495:20	2362:15
2371:11,15	contributed	2398:24	course 2332:11	2363:14,21
context 2469:15	2414:6 2473:2	2404:14	2350:20	2364:11
2507:26	2515:6	2433:7	2351:5,11	2367:7,18
2508:15,20	2516:10	2448:15,26	2352:24	2369:3,22
contexts	2518:5	2449:18,19	2353:17	2370:5 2371:7
2399:17	contributing	2458:20	2354:4,22	2372:13,20
contextually	2487:4	2478:4	2355:18	2373:4,4,12
2423:16	contribution	2487:25	2356:1	2374:12,19
continents	2518:21	2491:9 2495:3	2376:16	2376:11,24
2411:8	contributions	2514:14,22	2379:25	2377:21
continue	2412:23	2330:10,12	2380:2	2378:14
2338:12	contributor	correctly 2372:4	2384:16	2379:4,22



				1490 11
2381:22	2465:21	covered 2332:18	criminalistics	curbside
2382:15,20,24	2466:1,20	2415:17	2386:6	2413:13
2383:7,22	2467:1 2468:3	covering	criminals	cure 2435:6
2384:12,24	2468:11	2506:13	2348:3	current 2338:18
2385:7	2471:4,25	COVID 2407:6	crisis 2362:26	2338:23
2386:11	2475:20,26	COVID-19	2369:16	2393:21
2387:1,7	2477:3,25	2375:17	2372:8 2419:6	2403:22
2388:2,19	2478:6	co-occurring	criteria 2405:26	2405:15
2389:3,8,13	2479:13,18,23	2396:21	2408:16	2437:14
2390:1,8,12,16	2479:25	CPR 2348:26	2426:9	2438:15
2391:5,5,11,24	2480:7,15,24	2349:2	2450:17,19,23	2445:17
2392:8,10,13	2481:21	cracks 2406:4	2451:1,2	currently
2392:21,24,26	2483:11,15,23	craving 2412:8	2505:21,22	2337:12
2393:6,21	2484:8,14,18	2430:11	2512:7	2338:25
2394:8 2396:1	2484:22	2435:14	criterion 2508:1	2348:26
2400:12	2486:19	cravings	2512:5	2358:5
2402:5 2403:2	2487:10	2431:14	cross 6:3	2361:18
2405:15	2488:1	2432:4	2371:21	customer-faci
2408:4 2410:3	2489:18	CRAWFORD	crosses 2336:10	2478:21
2410:17,26	2490:13	3:20,20	cross-examin	CV 2403:17
2414:9	2491:20	create 2360:24	2371:11	CX-102 1:3
2425:11	2495:6,16	2368:4	2376:25	cycle 2487:5
2427:15	2496:3,11,17	2397:23	2377:1	2510:6
2430:14,15	2496:19	2404:5	2385:12	
2431:3	2497:10	created 2357:4	2386:14	D
2439:17	2501:6,22	2419:1	2480:19	D 2517:17
2441:21	2504:7 2506:8	creating	2523:11	DAGASTINO
2442:5,25	2511:10	2357:18	cross-examined	2:4
2443:21	2512:12,16,24	creation 2404:2	2371:9	daily 2441:18
2444:12,20	2513:21	creativity	CRR 1:26	2448:7
2445:18,23	2514:9	2510:7	2330:19	2460:22
2446:11,17,26	2515:12	creator 2366:1	crushing	2477:7,9,10
2449:21	2521:8,12,23	creators 2359:2	2439:19,20	2487:21
2451:7	2522:12,25	crime 2347:14	crush-resistant	damage 2502:23
2452:17,23	2523:8,18	2347:15,22,24	2439:19	dangerous
2455:11,19,22	2330:7,19	2348:6	CSR 1:26	2411:21
2456:4,15	courtesy	2417:13	2330:7,19	2440:13
2457:22	2394:23	crimes 2338:26	culpable	2473:2 2498:24
2459:17	2412:19,21,22	2347:20,24	2415:21	2498:24 2504:1
2460:15	2413:1	2348:16	cumulative	dangers 2493:4
2461:12	courting 2443:4	criminal	2512:14	dashboard 7:3
2463:9,18	courtroom	2339:12	2513:20	2391:7,8,17,21
2464:6,11	2413:24,25	2386:20	Cumulatively	2391:7,8,17,21
2465:2,16,20	cover 2334:16	2388:1	2513:4	2371.22,23,23
	l	l	l	l



				rage 12
2392:4,16	days 2336:23	declined	2480:10,14	7:17
data 2330:15,20	2409:15	2446:26	2481:6	DEF-CA-101
2331:11,14,18	2429:15	declining	2488:22	7:23
2331:19,21,23	2485:11	2447:13	2489:24,26	DEF-CA-101
2333:17,21,23	day-to-day	decrease 2427:6	2490:17,20	7:24
2334:11	2346:14,26	2427:6	2501:15	DEF-CA-101
2369:24	2376:2	decreased	2516:1 2523:3	7:24
2391:9	de 2416:19	2365:16	2523:11	DEF-CA-102
2419:25	deal 2413:17	2447:8	defense 2359:18	7:25
2420:1	Dealer 2414:12	decreases	2390:4	DEF-CA-102
2437:23,24	2414:15	2462:3	define 2344:22	7:25
2438:26	2422:22	dedicated	2403:5	DEF-CA-102
2441:2,3	2445:12	2520:10	2450:23	7:26
2445:8	death 2419:14	deemed 2506:5	defined 2425:13	DEF-CA-102
2451:11	2435:11	deep 2488:12	2477:6,8,9	7:20
2453:13	2436:9 2438:4	deeply 2466:2	2485:8,13	DEF-CA-102
2460:3	2438:7 2446:9	2518:1	2502:7	7:18
2469:22	2446:15	DEF 2333:5	2512:26	DEF-CA-102
database 2362:1	2500:25	defendant	definitely	7:18
2517:11,18	deaths 2437:2,8	2385:8 2389:9	2433:17	DEF-CA-102
databases	2437:11	2420:25	definition	7:4,20 2332:26
2331:15	2438:2	2477:24	2450:13,15	2333:7
2419:11	2445:26	defendants 1:16	2513:2	DEF-CA-102
date 2333:19	2446:2,3	4:2 2333:6	definitionally	7:5,21 2333:7
2403:16	2500:22	2335:22	2460:24	degree 2351:3
2449:22	debilitating	2336:7,11,17	definitions	2394:10
2513:26	2436:22	2337:5	2485:10,12	2426:26
dated 2487:24	decade 2398:10	2362:24	definitive	degrees 2433:16
2330:14	2402:19,20	2370:22	2487:15	deleterious
dating 2453:2	2418:14,17	2385:11,15	2488:8,8	2508:22
David 4:16	2441:17	2386:12	2489:12	demonstrate
2469:16	decades 2401:22	2416:9	DEF-CA-100	2454:20
2470:7	2406:10	2420:21	7:19	2478:7
day 2346:23,23	2408:7 2411:8	2421:3,22	DEF-CA-101	demonstrating
2348:13,13	2441:5	2422:7,19,24	7:21	2475:10
2354:21	December	2423:3	DEF-CA-101	dental 2439:2
2384:20	2373:21	2443:10	7:22	department 1:3
2401:6 2408:6	decided 2418:2	2448:15	DEF-CA-101	2338:21,22,24
2426:22,25	decipher	2454:13,20	7:19	2339:4,16,20
2443:15	2377:14	2456:6 2471:7	DEF-CA-101	2349:1
2476:26	decisions	2471:8,20	7:22	2354:21
2486:10,22	2336:19	2472:16	DEF-CA-101	2357:3,11,20
2490:19	deck 2335:20	2477:12	7:23	2357:22
2330:15	decline 2446:5,6	2479:8	DEF-CA-101	2361:24,26
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	1



				rage 13
2363:23	2507:17,21,23	depressant	2488:15	developing
2364:14	2507:26	2427:5,12	2491:24	2397:21
2366:16	2507.20	depression	detail 2339:2	2407:12
2368:10,18,19	2510:17,23	2409:16	2455:7 2513:9	2434:20
2369:2,7,12,14	2511:7,15,15	2493:14	detailing 2404:7	2439:2,8,11
2369:20	2511:19	2510:12	details 2412:12	2453:4
2370:12,19	2512:2,5	deputy 2366:14	detect 2473:3	2473:22
2371:3,5	2512:2,3	2397:15	detectives	2476:24
2371:5,5	dependency	describe	2348:2	2477:1
2372:3 2373.0	2396:24	2342:12	determine	2492:26
2380:8,17	2397:1	2346:13,25	2343:15	2494:8
2381:22	2407:15	2347:21	2385:24	2508:18
2396:17	dependent	2348:13,21	2434:16	development
2397:18	2394:26	2350:23	2448:18	2461:8 2493:3
2412:17,24,25	2405:25	2352:4,5	2464:22	2506:15
departments	2405.23	2354:13	2468:20	2523:4
2375:10	2408:18	2357:9	2492:6	develops 2427:3
depend 2378:2	2413:9 2417:5	2366:10	2501:11	2427:5,16
2385:25	2418:11	2375:8 2376:1	2518:5	2486:21
dependence	2419:2 2426:7	2405:15	2519:10	2505:4 2509:8
2395:24	2426:8 2505:8	2445:23	determined	devoted 2396:25
2404:1	2506:11,24	2479:20	2346:7,19	diagnose 2473:3
2406:20,24	depending	described	2358:15	2512:6
2407:11,21	2450:26	2342:6	2364:26	diagnosed
2408:21,24	deploy 2375:3	2346:24	2365:17	2450:25
2408.21,24	deployment	2349:8	2469:19	diagnosis
2410:6,14,19	2358:13	2358:20	2506:3	2393:25
2410:0,14,19	deployments	2402:3,9	determining	2396:16,18,19
2413:18	2373:21	2407:10	2343:20	2397:4
2414:1		2412:16	2434:24	2450:24
2414.1	deposed 2380:24	2466:20	deterrent	2470:17
2425:1,10,23	2381:3	2469:16	2439:19	diagnostic
2425:26	2384:20	describing	develop 2426:21	2365:10
2425:26	2387:20	2346:18	2426:26	diagram
2436:8,22	deposition	2351:25	2420.20	2453:23
2439:24	2337:3	designated	2433:2	diaphoretic
2446:9 2462:2	2369:24	2351:19	2434:16	2343:19
2462:10	2380:26	designation	2435:17,20	dichotomy
2475:24	2381:6	2397:19	2449:18,26	2482:24
2486:11	depositions	designed	2474:1 2476:8	die 2427:7,14
2504:12,19,20	2337:3	2416:23	2476:16	died 2409:8,12
2505:4,14,17	deprescribing	desire 2421:14	2493:13,19	differ 2485:15
2505:4,14,17	2394:25	desired 2436:20	developed	difference
2506:20	2408:4	despite 2425:14	2506:22	2341:1 2428:3
2500.20		200pice 2 120.1 T		25 11.1 2 120.5
	1	1	1	1



				Page 14
2485:18,26	diplomate	2334:6 2447:2	2517:23	2424:11
differences	2396:1,4,9,11	2458:18	disorders	2424:11
2515:20	DIRE 6:3	2501:6 2522:5	2394:14	2434:11
different	direct 6:3	discussing	2396:20	2450:14
2331:23	2338:14	2488:26	2417:17	2453:12
	2376:23	discussion	2417.17	2453:12
2342:13,16,17	2378:5,6			
2343:5	· /	2330:14	disorder/opioid 2410:23	2455:5
2347:16	2384:11	2335:14		2461:10
2349:10,12	2385:16	2440:16	dispatches	2467:12
2359:7 2361:3	2386:26	disease 2425:3	2347:6	2468:12
2371:5	2388:1	2425:12	dispensaries	2473:13,16
2395:19	2393:18	2431:19	2354:15	2474:12,24
2399:17	directly 2352:16	2435:6,9	dispensed	2477:14
2412:23	2363:7,16	2482:18	2424:13	2478:2
2420:14	2376:21	disorder	distinct 2426:12	2480:19,24
2423:24	2457:3 2467:1	2396:22	2482:17	2482:25
2425:25	director	2398:23	2512:9	2487:10
2429:19	2393:24,26	2405:26	distinction	2494:9,18
2431:17	2396:16	2406:23	2461:24	2499:13
2436:16	2397:15,17	2408:17,26	2478:12,15	2503:16
2446:19,20,20	2404:26	2409:7 2410:7	2482:21	2508:3
2456:21	directs 2375:14	2410:16,21	2486:3	2510:26
2458:19	discarded	2412:5	2508:11	2511:1
2499:25	2354:10,17	2418:21	2512:4	2512:10,25
2512:17	discipline	2420:12	distinguish	2513:8
differently	2396:5	2425:15,18,21	2342:9 2343:5	2517:15
2432:11	disclosed	2426:10	2349:9,12,23	2518:3 2521:6
2450:14	2481:18	2431:23	distinguished	2521:14
2471:11	disclosures	2434:20	2426:4	2522:2
differs 2426:23	2489:22	2435:8,20	distraction	doctors 2402:25
difficult 2376:4	discounted	2439:3 2450:1	2480:18	2404:22
2378:3	2521:4	2450:18,22,24	District 1:6	2408:13
2385:24	discover 2474:9	2450:25	divert 2478:17	2414:13,19
2473:3	discovered	2451:3,4,5	diverters	2415:23
2491:21	2428:8	2467:7 2469:8	2461:26	2416:3,13,17
2505:10	discuss 2331:1	2474:1 2476:8	division 2345:23	2416:24
2506:1,25	2334:8 2335:6	2476:11,12,14	2345:25	2438:3 2440:8
2507:21	2335:11	2476:14,15	2346:3 2348:1	2440:14
difficulty	2399:20	2477:1	2348:25	2441:14
2435:8	2443:22	2505:22	doctor 2392:11	2476:3
Dilaudid 2343:2	2444:4	2508:1	2409:11	2489:11
dimensions	2523:15	2509:22	2410:10	2517:11
2412:23	discussed	2510:5 2512:4	2416:7 2417:7	2519:22
DING 4:17	2330:12	2512:6	2423:15,18	doctor's
	•	•	•	•



				rage 13
2406.10	2479.22.24	2414.26	2505.0	2451.6
2406:10 2424:13	2478:22,24	2414:26 2440:21	2505:9 doses 2406:8,9	2451:6 2452:17
	2494:18,20,23		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
2434:20,25	2495:7,21,23	2442:26	2406:17	2462:11
2458:10	2496:4 2497:1	2448:24	2408:8,11	2463:11,20
2473:18,19	2497:7 2499:2	2474:13	2417:2	2464:21
2474:8	2508:7 2511:4	2515:4,9	2441:15,16	2465:19
2477:20	documentary	2516:5	2447:20	2467:20
2478:9	2417:13	2520:20,20	2460:10	2468:5 2469:1
2479:10	documents 7:8	dominates	2461:7	2470:10
2480:12	2330:13,19,24	2521:10 P 2421 (19	2502:19	2481:2 2482:4
2481:10	2330:24	Don 2421:6,18	2504:1	2483:6,23
2482:6	2331:5,6	donation	2506:24	2485:2
document	2332:9,11,14	2366:21	2507:12	2489:18
2330:14	2333:16	DONNA 5:13	2509:7,8,9	2490:24
2331:2,2	2334:5	donna.welch	dosing 2462:3	2491:18
2332:10	2371:13	5:16	dots 2468:18	2493:21
2359:14,19	2372:18	dopamine	double 2359:22	2495:24
2360:2,5,6,13	2420:22,25	2428:7,8,18,24	2362:12	2506:8
2360:19,21	2421:3,17,19	2504:22	2367:5	2509:12
2361:12,15,17	2421:19,22	dosage 2389:2	2368:25	2510:16
2362:14	2422:7,10,13	dose 2416:16	downregulation	2512:15,15,20
2363:25	2422:19	2435:3	2428:23	2513:20,20
2364:16,19	2423:8 2443:2	2439:10	2504:22	2514:2 2516:4
2367:1,5,8,10	2454:17	2441:15	dozen 2339:10	2523:1,8
2367:11,15,16	2456:11,26	2447:22,24	2339:11	draw 2352:15
2367:21,24,26	2457:1	2459:3,11,13	2353:16	2354:15
2368:4,17,22	2461:11	2460:14	2491:3	2462:1 2503:3
2368:24	2471:23	2461:3,4	Dr 2390:24	drawing
2369:3,18,18	2472:18	2469:21	2391:4,22	2443:12
2370:15,21,26	2478:26	2470:23	2392:7,23	drawn 2381:16
2371:8,17,18	2479:15	2473:6,20	2393:20	drive 2:5 2432:5
2371:26	2480:1,22	2476:22,24	2394:1,5	driving 2435:14
2373:14	2481:2,5,6,13	2477:3,4,4,6,7	2395:26	2522:20
2384:7,17	2496:1,8,24	2477:9	2402:3,8	drug 2341:20
2390:19,20,22	2497:17	2482:11,13	2403:13	2343:5
2391:6,14,16	2498:7	2483:2	2408:3,20	2350:19,20
2421:24,26	2501:10,23	2486:16,26	2431:5,11	2365:3
2422:1,2,4	2508:6	2487:3	2439:13	2377:18,26
2454:24	2510:20	2499:11,15,22	2442:15	2381:7,9,15
2455:5,9,11,13	2511:11	2500:4,5	2444:10,20	2414:12,15
2455:16	2516:1	2501:1,13,25	2445:20	2422:22
2456:20,22,23	doing 2332:15	2502:3,6,7,14	2447:12	2434:8
2457:23,24	2378:4,6	2503:15,20,24	2448:11,13,18	2436:14,14,15
2472:1	2398:9,10	2504:26	2449:3,16	2445:12
L				



				rage 10
2482:22	2414:19	2492:2	2432:22	elaborate
2498:25	2414.19	2492.2	2436:4,20,21	2449:20
2502:11	Duragesic	2512:11	2467:26	element 2403:21
2510:6	2456:23	2514:11,22	2467.26	elicit 2468:5
drugs 2341:4,20	duration	early 2336:26	2492:14	ELLIS 5:12
2350:3,4	2416:16	2400:16	2508:22	embedded
2378:10	2435:4 2439:9	2409:2,15,25	2512:12,13,20	2413:8
2380:9,18,21	2459:13	2417:25	2512:12,13,20	emblematic
2381:11	2460:24	2418:8,9	2513:6	2456:10
2387:12	2473:20	2423:12	effective 2401:9	emergency
2405:19,19,21	2482:11	2434:3 2441:9	2411:10	2340:2
2434:8	2483:3	2453:3	2419:17	2357:10
2440:13	2485:16	2520:11,24	2448:8	emphasize
2461:26	2498:18	ease 2394:5	2492:15,17	2415:19
2478:16,17	duties 2346:2,4	2508:17	effectively	empirical
dsafarti@hue	2351:5,11	easily 2359:10	2346:21	2470:16
4:20	2352:24	2459:25	effectiveness	2519:1
DSM 2450:16	2352:24	2462:2	2493:26	employee
DSM-IV	2354:4,23	2504:12	effects 2350:23	2338:18
2425:26	2355:18	2505:5,18	2426:17	2398:18
DSM-5 2408:16	2356:1 2376:5	2506:20	2427:5,11,11	employees
2425:21	2379:25	2510:18,23	2427:13	2365:24
2426:1,3,9,12	2380:3	2510:16,23	2429:9	2366:2
2450:19,23	duty 2346:10	East 3:6	2447:23	Empty 2354:10
2512:6	dyed 2388:16,23	easy 2462:4	2488:11	EMT 2339:26
dual 2393:25	dying 2439:12	editor 2459:1,5	2493:7,10,12	2340:1,3,5,6
2396:16,18,19	dyscrasia	Edlund 2475:13	2502:18,19	2341:1,2,11
2397:4	2502:20	2475:17,22	2506:15	encounter
due 2348:15	dysphoria	2476:4,10,18	efficient	2342:26
2352:21	2432:5	2477:4	2481:24	encountered
2356:18		2482:10	efficiently	2350:22
2361:2	E	2483:3	2482:2	encouraged
2365:13	E 3:11	educate 2416:24	effort 2362:25	2416:5 2473:6
2366:3 2376:4	earlier 2347:17	2417:3	2505:25	2508:22,24
2401:26	2349:8	education	efforts 2406:4	2509:2
Duke 2399:19	2356:26	2339:23	either 2332:18	Endo 1:12,13
2404:13,14,18	2371:9	2394:8	2333:24	4:13,13
2404:25	2409:22	2400:23	2341:19	2490:24,24
2405:3	2425:9,23	2403:25	2346:23	2491:7 2503:8
duly 2336:20	2447:2	2417:21	2358:22	endogenous
2338:9	2449:16	EDWARDS 3:5	2375:15	2504:22
2393:12	2466:9 2467:3	effect 2359:6	2407:10	ends 2509:7
Dunn 2500:7,11	2473:21,25	2424:20	2418:20	endure 2435:10
duped 2414:13	2488:12	2427:1,3	2520:10	2507:1
		<u> </u>		



				Page 17
1 61.6	2207.21	2 10 10 11 11	2476 4 10 10	2460.20
end-of-life	2395:21	2:10,10,11,11	2476:4,10,18	2460:20
2498:15	2397:24	2:12,12 3:3,4,4	2488:5	2461:22
energy 2510:7	2399:5,15	3:5,5,11,11,16	2498:19	2465:9 2466:4
enforcement	2400:26	3:16,20 4:6,6,7	2500:7,9,11	2470:16
2344:25	2401:3	4:8,14,14,15	2507:9	2471:23
2345:1,7	2403:22	4:15,16,16,17	Europe 2440:22	2477:23
2442:1	2404:6 2406:5	4:23 5:4,4,5,5	evaluate 2466:4	2478:3
enforcements	2413:20	5:13,13,14,14	Evan 2359:14	2480:23
2347:23	2414:21	essence 2423:12	2359:16	2481:3,7,13,26
engage 2482:18	2415:19	2506:14	2364:19	2485:21,23
engaging 2415:8	2417:11	essential	2367:3	2486:12
Engineering	2437:14	2375:23	2371:25	2487:11,19
2438:13	2438:16	2513:5	2373:14	2488:11,15
2515:24	2523:5	essentially	EVD 7:2	2490:3
enormous	epigenetic	2341:2 2391:6	event 2453:21	2491:19,24
2428:7	2434:4	2395:11	events 2346:18	2492:6,7,11,14
ensure 2415:24	equal 2343:17	2401:2 2404:8	2346:18	2492:24
ensuring 2397:9	2429:1	2411:24	2438:9	2493:25
entailed 2339:1	2453:25	2416:3	eventually	2494:1 2496:2
entered 2332:7	equate 2511:15	2418:24	2429:16	2497:18
2454:25	2511:18	2425:19	2430:4	2498:7 2499:6
entire 7:3	equated 2447:4	2438:10	2432:25	2499:14,17,18
2371:18	equilibrium	2443:16	everybody	2501:11,23
2391:21,25	2432:3	establish	2330:9 2431:3	2502:13
2392:15	equipment	2371:18	2484:18	2507:7 2508:6
2401:22	2347:3	2383:4 2488:2	evidence 7:7,8	2510:21
2436:7	equivalent	established	2330:22	2513:23
2503:26	2428:20	2382:20	2333:8,11,16	2518:2
2520:24	2446:18	2407:16	2335:2 2337:4	evidences
entirely 2424:9	equivalents	2467:25	2362:8,11	2494:9
entirety 2392:5	2441:18	establishes	2363:1	evidence-based
2392:18	2447:5,7,9	2364:13	2368:22	2410:20,21,24
entities 2375:10	2448:2,6	establishing	2372:19	2410:25
2471:3	2477:7,8,10	2370:11	2390:20	2411:1,3
entitled 2437:1	2500:2	esteemed	2392:19	2416:5 2459:6
2487:11	era 2423:15	2489:7	2404:22	2489:13
2489:17	ERCOLE 5:5	estimate 2343:9	2411:2,5,12	exacerbation
2505:14	error 2455:2	2365:23	2416:6,8	2493:18
2508:7	especially	2406:22	2419:17	exact 2403:16
entity 2415:12	2351:3	et 2449:23	2448:20	exactly 2389:4
2448:25	2493:11	2451:9	2449:10	2409:11
environment	2505:8	2453:26	2454:17,25,26	2426:22
2434:3	2510:14	2474:20,26	2455:17,24	2439:26
epidemic	ESQ 2:3,4,4,9,9	2475:8,22	2459:22	2469:14
•		<u> </u>		



				Page 10
2502.12	2491.9.12	2479.2	2507.12.16	2444.12
2503:12	2481:8,12	2478:2	2507:13,16	2444:12
2508:3	2483:17	exist 2493:20	2508:14	2446:17
exam 2396:6,6	2494:10	existence	2513:15	2449:20
2396:13,14	2497:17,23	2363:11	2519:19,21	2456:3
examination	2498:6	2374:17	2520:4,6	2459:17
2338:14	2501:12,23	2388:8 2499:4	2521:7,15	2461:13
2389:17	2503:17,19	existing 2493:18	2522:3	2465:2 2466:1
2391:4	2510:21	exists 2502:4	experienced	2475:26
2393:18	2511:6,11	exogenous	2511:20	2477:3
2523:9,13	exception	2504:24	experiences	2487:10
examined	2362:19	expand 2344:4	2377:6	2491:20
2335:12	2522:22	expanded	2445:13	2503:4
2338:9	excerpts	2490:2	experiencing	2511:10
2393:12	2462:13	2498:14	2401:17	2512:12
examining	exclusively	expect 2351:3	2506:5,6	explained
2392:7	2365:6 2426:4	expected 2485:9	experiential	2446:26
example	excuse 2349:3	experience	2423:9	explaining
2403:24	2358:12	2343:12	expert 2348:26	2366:15
2420:7	2390:26	2344:1	2351:19	explanation
2421:24	2401:24	2348:13	2405:8,12	2452:18
2424:1	2490:18	2366:3 2380:7	2415:11	2484:4
2456:18,22	2492:7 2504:3	2380:16	2420:10,18	explicit 2470:22
2457:12,19	excused 2390:1	2396:1	2442:17	explicitly
2460:2	2390:9	2397:25	2448:25	2476:15
2469:23	exercise 2429:8	2400:5,10,13	2495:18	explode 2350:21
2486:5,24	exercised	2400:25	2517:3,7,20	explore 2421:14
2493:11	2489:26	2402:2,10,22	2518:17,17	2445:7 2457:1
2503:8	exhibit 2333:6	2405:4	expertise 2386:6	2466:2
2505:24	2359:16	2411:11	2397:19	explosion
2506:14	2362:8	2415:5	2465:25	2356:10
2513:1,2,3	2367:16	2417:15	2466:22	exposed
2519:3	2372:18	2422:20	2473:15	2434:13
examples	2391:2,3,5,5	2423:1	2506:26	2458:9
2454:19	2391:26	2426:21,24	explain 2340:26	2459:10
2456:9,10	2392:9,12	2427:26	2357:23	2463:13
2461:13	2455:23	2428:1	2358:21	2464:3,25
2463:1 2471:9	2481:26	2430:11	2365:12	2476:5,6,17
2471:18,21	2496:25	2431:14	2374:26	2477:2
2472:9,11,14	2498:3,3	2434:3	2375:20	2520:12
2472:17,19	exhibiting	2436:25	2410:17,26	exposure
2477:18	2469:7,17	2486:8,11,15	2425:11	2411:25
2478:7 2479:6	2472:21	2492:17	2427:15	2412:1
2479:16	exhibits 2333:9	2493:17	2437:1,20	2433:11
2480:2,9	2333:13,14	2506:12,17	2441:21	2435:4
2.00.2,5	2555.15,11	2000.12,17	221	
	1	1	1	1



	rage 17
2437:26 2408:8 2504:1 2490:6 2467:10,26 5:52	2410:1
2437:26 2408:8 2504:1 2490:6 2467:10,26 5:5 2 2438:7 2439:4 2504:1 2491:21,26 2468:18 2454	
2436.7 2439.4 2304.1 2491.21,20 2408.16 243- 2439:9 2494:5 2505:10 2493:8 2470:21 2455	
2500:21,24	
2500.21,24 2300.1 2498.24 2472.22,24 2403 2513:23 e-mail 2496:5 2502:13 2478:10 2477	
2513.25 C-man 2490.3 2502.13 2478.10 2478.25 2519:16 2496:12,17,22 2505:6 2512:5 2482:7,8,9,21 2504	
2519.10 2490.12,17,22 2503.0 2512.3 2482.7,8,9,21 2502.18 2496:22 2519:7 2482:24 fellow	
express 2444:23 E-X-H-I-B-I 2520:15,22 2483:18 2393	
expressed 7:1	
2421:10 Tacto 2410:19 2493:23 2394 factor 2446:14 2499:23 fellow	
2443:26 F 2523:4 2501:3,4,7 2404	-
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	
1 actor 5 25 12.0 25 02.2 1ct 21	
Expressing 2.133.10,10,20 23.03.10,21 2.122	2:12 1yl 2343:2
2 13 1. 1,19,20 23 10.10 Tental	1 y 1 2343:2 3:12,19
2107.13	,
2306.10	
2321.22 2.4 2.4 2.4 2.4 2.4 2.4 2.4 2.4 2.4	1:13 2:8,13
25/5.0	3:13,14
2515.5	
2307.23	
2001	
	ıyl-relat
20000	
211217	
2500.20	
25)1.22	
2575.21	ty 2375:19
2337.7 Ibaker windim 1ewer	2416:14
2551.21	atrick@
2332.1	
250 1.0 Idin'ty 25 / 7.5 Identify 25 / 7.5	LMA 2:11
2303.20 Tail 2 127.7 Teatures 2310.5 Teatures 2310.5	2343:12
255 0.21 Idileit 2 100.5 I tolium y	
2117.1,17	
2177.22 2350.22 Tederal 2121.0 2100	
2520:22 2460:1,11,16 false 2441:25 Federation 2516 2441:49 2415:25 2519	
212.0,19	
2501.21	401:15
extreme 2478:17 2445:10 fee 2490:18,21 2520	0:18
2106.10	
2406:15 2486:13 2456:5 2457:7 fees 2488:22 Figue	
2406:15 2486:13 2456:5 2457:7 fees 2488:22 Figue	roa 4:23 : 2335:4



				Tage 20
2443:16	2348:25	Fitzpatrick 2:11	2504:10	2467:3
2476:7	2349:2	2333:22	2505:11,13	2468:21
figuring 2474:4	2350:18	2334:2,9,15,19	2512:16,18	foolproof
file 2332:19	2355:11	2336:25	2513:7 2514:1	2434:15
2455:6	2358:23	2390:25	2515:14	Foran 4:14 6:8
fill 2405:23	2362:3	2392:21,22	2521:8,11,13	2351:26
Finally 2434:6	2368:25	2393:19	2522:1,26	2386:13,15
financial	2369:7	2402:7 2403:7	2523:6,20	2387:1,3,7,9
2399:24	2371:26	2410:9 2431:9	five 2342:23	2387:10
find 2416:21	2372:2	2431:10	2354:3 2389:5	2388:3,5,7,21
2419:18,23	2375:21	2437:15,17	2406:4	2389:3,6,8
2471:9	2391:16	2442:7,13,14	2416:12	force 2372:6
2492:11,14	2393:12	2444:7,9	2447:9 2451:3	forecasting
2499:4	2394:4	2445:18,19	2491:2	2346:22
2510:21	2402:19	2446:16	2505:21	foregoing
2519:15	2408:25	2452:19,20,22	fixed 2359:10	2330:9
2522:18	2412:15	2455:1,4,15,25	flag-down	foremost
finding 2450:8	2416:15	2456:1 2457:9	2375:12	2519:14
2456:22	2417:18	2457:11	flag-downs	forged 2482:18
2457:17	2418:14	2463:10,19	2346:5	form 2352:13
2460:17	2427:21	2464:7,20	flooding	2353:2
2476:18	2441:16	2465:18	2403:20	2380:10
2499:1 2502:7	2449:11	2467:1,18	2436:4	2381:10,14,15
2505:26	2458:5	2468:3,9,22,26	Floor 3:6,12,17	2422:13
findings	2461:15	2471:5,15,17	4:23	2444:5
2427:20	2469:12,14	2478:1	flow 2352:6	2449:18
2437:22	2488:5 2494:2	2479:14,18,21	flows 2361:25	2450:26
2453:15,15	2494:17	2479:24,26	focus 2347:8	2480:17
2454:3 2500:8	2498:12,23,25	2480:8,21	2394:24	2509:24
2500:10	2502:1 2504:8	2481:1,23	2518:3	formally 2333:3
2505:16	2510:1	2482:3	focused 2350:19	2333:4 2371:2
fine 2335:21,23	2516:26	2483:15,20	2467:9	2390:22
2490:24	2519:14	2484:9,11,20	focusing	format 2474:25
fine-tuned	2522:16	2484:24	2462:18	formed 2380:3
2428:12	firsthand	2485:1	2510:1 2518:9	forms 2395:21
Fire 2375:5	2400:5,10,13	2489:14,16	followed	formulating
firearms	2402:1,9	2490:14	2352:23	2419:5
2348:19	first-line	2495:1,6,8,16	following 7:9	formulation
firearm-related	2441:13	2495:17	2330:6	2439:22
2348:16	2485:4 2493:5	2496:5,14,18	2346:23	formulations
firmer 2336:19	2493:22	2497:12,15	2382:22	2439:14,18
first 2338:9	2494:4,13	2498:2,5	2414:2	found 5:18
2339:24,24	2497:19,25	2499:7,9	follows 2338:10	2450:7 2457:7
2345:1,13,21	fit 2357:21	2501:17,21	2393:13	2457:8
		<u> </u>		
L				



				1 age 21
2471.12 10	2497:11	function	G 3:20 4:6	2446:23
2471:13,19 2474:21	2502:2 2504:6	2458:16		2453:11
2475:9	2512:21	2459:16,20,20	gambling 2405:22	2454:10
2476:10	2512.21	2460:2	games 2405:22	2461:6,26
2517:12	2521:22	2476:24	_	2462:4
2517:12		2500:3	gang 2347:25	
foundation	2522:11,15,16 2522:24	fundamental	2348:15,18 gap 2405:24	2490:19 2505:9 2521:3
2352:1 2353:5	four 2345:8	2428:3	2428:10,12	GI 2502:19
2354:26	2368:25	2428:3	gateway 2436:2	Gilbert 2490:22
2359:21	2420:25	2460:22	· ·	
	2426:25		2512:12,13,20 2513:6	give 2332:1
2362:10,12,20 2363:20	2435:19	fundamentally 2411:25		2337:19,25 2353:12
	2448:14		gateways	
2364:4,7		funding 2491:6	2513:12,18	2365:16
2367:5	2449:17	2491:7,10,12	gather 2376:19	2393:5 2412:4
2368:24,26	2451:3 2456:4 2491:2	2491:14 2492:1	2422:15	2440:14
2369:19	-	-	general 2350:19	2464:1 2486:9
2372:26	framed 2355:14	further 2330:14	2361:24	2508:14,16
2377:20	2468:12	2335:14	2485:13	given 2354:14
2378:13	2495:5	2346:14,25	generally	2388:4 2399:3
2379:2,21,22	frames 2353:25	2351:10	2337:18	2421:17,22
2388:18	Francisco 3:21	2357:9	2412:11	2432:15
2402:1 2442:4	Frank 3:17	2358:21	2417:17	2438:3
2442:7,8,9,12	2507:9	2363:9	2517:21	2473:19
2443:19,22	frankly 2461:22	2365:12	generate	2484:13
2444:4	Fred 2336:4	2368:2	2422:16	2490:6
2446:10	FREDERICK	2372:18	generated	gives 2451:2
2454:26	1:9 2:9	2375:20	2346:5 2421:5	giving 2416:26
2463:8,16,17	frequency	2376:23	2422:24	Global 2404:24
2463:18	2453:21	2385:5 2389:7	generation	go 2331:9
2464:8,12,15	frequent	2389:26	2400:8	2332:2
2464:16,17,18	2471:14	2473:8 2523:7	2414:19	2333:23
2465:15	2503:7	furthermore	2419:1	2336:26
2468:13,14	frequently	2434:26	2423:11,12,13	2337:20
2471:1	2342:22	2436:15,21	2503:26	2394:6
2477:24	2343:9	2438:9	generations	2398:25
2478:20	front 2360:13	2445:11	2402:25	2400:23
2479:12	2367:22	2450:8	genetic 2433:24	2405:14
2480:5,13	2418:2	2453:17	genuine 2389:2	2406:19
2483:13	fulcrum	2462:1 2473:1	genuinely	2414:26
2490:11	2427:26	2482:15	2415:7	2417:15
2495:5,14	full 2393:14	future 2359:1	Geriatric	2422:3
2496:10,16,19	2451:7	f/k/a 1:14 5:3,11	2457:26	2434:11
2496:20	2330:10,11		2458:2	2437:15,16
2497:2,6,9,11	fully 2378:4	G	getting 2417:26	2445:20,26
				<u> </u>



2447:24,25,25	2356:25	2461:20	2330:7,19	2511:17,21
2449:8 2451:6	2359:13	2484:18	ground 2347:26	habituation
2451:15	2362:19	2487:2	grounding	2426:17
2455:25	2366:26	2492:19,24	2411:1	Haddox
2457:15	2372:16,25	Google 2419:12	grounds	2469:16
2458:4	2387:1,3	governing	2466:25	2470:7
2459:14	2391:15	2428:13	2481:16	half 2339:5
2461:2,7,10	2394:5	2441:26	2495:5	2346:1
2467:21,24	2406:19,21	government	2521:22	2387:11
2468:23	2409:24	2403:24	groundwork	2510:3
2469:3,21	2412:12	2415:12	2381:23	hand 2337:15
2470:23	2416:7 2425:9	2419:25,25	2382:1	2337:16
2471:15	2436:26	2420:1,2,15	group 2407:19	2393:3
2473:10	2438:23	2443:2	2443:8	handed 2332:24
2474:14	2451:26	2448:25	2499:26	2354:18
2475:15	2457:15	governments	2503:22	handle 2347:23
2480:22	2466:24	2420:4	groups 2407:16	handled 2347:7
2481:25	2467:21	gradual 2520:12	grow 2434:2	hands 2356:19
2484:26	2471:1	graduate	growing 2406:6	2357:26
2488:24	2480:18	2340:10	2407:17	2358:9,14
2489:14	2481:15	2345:18	2505:6	2375:14
2490:15	2483:6	graduated	2507:10,24	HANNAH 3:4
2491:1,16	2484:12,13	2340:5	guess 2484:5	hannah.kiesc
2495:8,10	2495:9	2394:21	guide 2450:23	3:8
2499:7,20	2502:22,24	2520:7	2478:20	happen 2359:8
2503:14,24	2506:17	grandparent	2483:13	2359:9,9
2508:4	2512:21	2433:25	guideline	2433:9
2510:20,25	2513:8,9	grant 2368:1,5,7	2490:21	happened
2515:15	2514:4 2516:8	2368:9,13	guidelines	2360:4
goal 2414:16	2517:14	2369:8	2416:13	2381:26
God 2338:1	2519:8 2521:6	2370:13	2488:6,18	2416:17
2393:7	2521:14	2371:1,2	2489:3,10,12	2444:13,21
goes 2363:7	2522:2	graph 2475:17	2489:17,20	happening
2370:22,26	2523:10	graphic 2475:21	2490:16	2346:19,23
2371:1 2387:8	Gomes 2500:9	great 2339:1	2491:18,22	happens
2502:9	good 2330:9	2341:21	2498:26	2427:15,17
going 2330:10	2334:24	2435:8	guise 2416:3	2429:6,7
2333:23	2338:11	greater 2339:2	gunfire 2347:25	happy 2458:4
2334:16	2386:16	2436:6	Gunshot 2359:8	hard 2414:14
2335:1	2392:24,26	2439:11	gutter 2356:23	2419:19,20
2339:22	2393:20	2453:25,26	H	2428:16
2341:12,14	2431:3	2454:1 2477:9		2505:15
2344:24	2440:21	2500:2	H 3:5,17	harder 2458:16
2350:6 2351:9	2460:20	Gregor 1:26	habituate	2459:15
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
				



				Page 23
2460.1	2255.2	2406.12	2204.12	2262 5 6 12
2460:1	2355:2	2486:13	2394:12	2363:5,6,13
harm 2363:10	2363:13	2487:3 2507:4	highlight 2427:2	2364:1,18
2409:22	2369:21	HENNIGAN	highly 2372:7	2367:4
2425:14	2372:14	4:13	2440:13,14	2368:21,23
2487:4 2494:1	2448:13	HERMIZ 2:11	2450:2	2370:3,17
harmed 2406:5	2469:9	heroin 2343:2	high-quality	2371:24
2408:10	hearsay 2359:22	2353:1	2475:10	2372:11,24
2503:25	2359:22	2380:21	hiring 2397:7	2373:11
harming	2362:11,12	2381:12	history 2339:23	2374:14,24
2406:13	2363:17,19	2382:8	2435:1,2,2	2376:26
2415:9	2367:5,5	2385:19	2476:15	2385:10
2520:15	2368:25,25	2446:1	2483:2	2386:13
harms 2403:24	2371:17	2513:12,18,26	hold 2367:9,13	2387:9 2388:5
2436:8 2442:2	2409:26	heyday 2519:20	2423:20	2389:6,16,25
2506:7	2443:20	high 2340:26	2466:10	2390:11
harm-reduction	2496:9,15	2342:3	2517:14	2391:1,20
2411:23	2504:5	2347:21	home 2434:1	2392:3,22
HBO 2417:13	2522:19,22,23	2348:21	homeostasis	2401:24
head 2343:15	heart 2427:6	2357:23	2412:7	2403:1 2410:2
healing 2460:26	heavily 2489:11	2406:9 2408:8	2428:15	2431:9 2442:3
2485:10	Hedding 3:6	2408:10	2429:4 2430:4	2442:13
health 1:13 4:13	Heimann	2441:16	2430:8 2432:7	2443:18
2334:12	2421:7,16	2447:19,22	2432:21	2444:26
2395:20	held 2330:6	2450:3 2453:4	2433:7	2446:10
2396:21	Hello 2386:17	2459:13	homeostatic	2454:23
2397:1,22	help 2338:1	2473:19	2432:3	2455:2,15,20
2400:24	2346:6 2393:7	2475:11	HON 1:20	2461:17
2404:25	2403:24	2476:22	Honor 2331:9	2463:7,15
2438:17,17,18	2406:5,7	2477:4,9	2331:16,26	2464:5,7
2453:20,22	2407:25	2482:12,14	2332:5,23	2465:12
2458:24	2408:13	2499:12,16,23	2333:22	2466:24
2476:12,14	2416:22	2501:2,14,26	2334:9,17,19	2467:18
2488:11	2418:20	2503:20	2334:22,25	2468:10,22
2507:1	2431:24	2504:1	2335:6,10,22	2470:26
healthcare	2441:1	higher 2437:10	2336:4,8,25	2477:21
2441:23	2505:26	2439:10	2337:8	2479:11
2462:8 2507:4	2507:3,25	2500:5,5,24,24	2338:13	2480:13,21
2516:3	helpful 2355:25	2502:14,14,19	2351:18,26	2481:15,23
hear 2331:17	2371:20	2509:7,7,9	2352:9 2353:5	2483:21
2334:18,22,23	2510:4	highest-quality	2354:25	2484:1,5,11,12
2367:7	helping 2394:25	2450:6,7	2355:3,16	2484:21,24
2444:21,25	2406:13	Highland	2359:13,18,25	2490:12
2452:17	2408:1 2413:8	2357:6	2360:11	2495:1,5,13,17
heard 2331:8	2416:25	2366:21	2362:7,9,17	2496:14,21
				•
L				



				Tage 24
2407.2.12	2402-16	2467.5.2460.5	2500.2	2460.10
2497:2,12	2493:16	2467:5 2469:5	2509:3	2460:19
2503:12	T	2473:22	impact 2350:11	2486:3
2504:4	idea 2367:10	2480:19,25	2350:15	2487:15
2512:14,18	2381:25	2481:26	2376:1,3,8,17	2489:10
2513:19	2383:19	2495:11	2402:25	2498:12,17
2521:11,20	2447:22	2517:3	2403:4,20	2502:5
2522:10,13	2497.22	identifying	2445:14	2508:11
2523:6,17,20	2503:19	2341:26	2490:4	2511:26
Honor's 2336:6	identification	2344:3	2519:11,23	importantly
2503:6	2333:12	2349:23	impacted	2408:15
Hooked 2414:13		2351:1	2372:7	2426:15
Hopkins	2349:20	identify/distin	2375:21	2453:2
2399:19	2350:2,4	2342:13	2400:11	2476:22
2414:11	2358:1	ignoring 2418:1	2418:26	2505:21
hormone	identified	II 2358:7,12,13	2518:20,25	imported
2493:10	2330:13	2363:10	2519:17,20	2440:22
hospice 2440:22	2331:23	2374:22	2520:1	impossible
2508:12	2332:8,13	2424:5	impacts 2351:6	2481:19
hospital	2347:10	III 2:4 2358:18	2355:20	improper
2340:20	2354:12	2358:19,20	2356:2,6	2353:6
2357:6,7	2391:16,18	illicit 2341:19	implemented	2354:25
2366:22	2392:16	2341:23	2358:4,5,17	2359:23
2394:12	2448:18	2342:17	implicate	2368:26
2520:18	2449:4,12	2344:9 2350:3	2416:1	2373:2 2376:9
hospitalization	2452:9	2377:18,26	implicates	2504:6
2437:11	2460:17	2378:12,19	2363:16	improved
hospitalized	2462:21,26,26	2379:1,9	implied 2470:22	2459:20,20
2459:2,9	2470:2,12	2380:21	imply 2398:17	improvement
hour 2523:10	2480:1,16	2381:15	implying 2499:2	2507:13
hours 2340:19	2483:10	2382:8,13	importance	impunity
2340:21,22	2491:3,17	2383:13	2416:24	2447:25
2520:10	2492:26	2385:23	2489:25	inappropriate
house 2440:20	2495:25	2424:16,17,19	important	2353:26
HUESTON	2506:19	2425:7 2436:3	2359:3	Incident
4:13,14	2508:6	Illinois 5:15	2397:12,13,23	2475:23
HUGHES 3:11	2518:11	illness 2483:2	2401:14	include 7:9
human 2428:9	2521:17	illustrative	2409:20	2341:20
hundred	2522:5	2478:10	2427:2,19	2343:1,20
2386:23	identify 2342:4	immediate	2428:13	2344:5 2346:6
2387:11	2349:9,12	2344:5	2438:19	2348:17
husband	2381:7	2368:15	2439:7	2380:21
2409:10	2396:19	immediately	2447:18	2400:5 2424:9
hyperalgesia	2451:7	2333:24	2456:25	2435:25
2433:3	2457:16	2428:19	2459:19	2454:6



_				Page 23
2402.10	2422.22	2422-12	2460.4.7	2205.22
2493:10	2433:23 2436:10	2432:12	2460:4,7 2461:25	2395:23 2403:10
included 2450:3		indicating		
2450:4	2437:5,10,12	2332:19	2471:2 2474:6	2520:13
2452:13	2438:4,15	indication	2474:9	2521:17
2487:14	2446:7,12	2487:2	2475:24	influential
2516:15	2447:6,17	indications	2476:11,22	2488:18
includes	2459:20	2385:19,22	2477:1	2489:6
2477:22	2468:8 2473:7	individual	2478:15,17	influx 2504:24
2491:7	2476:16	2348:22	2482:17	inform 2343:6
including	2514:21	2385:19	2490:1,8	2489:12
2341:11	2515:1	2412:25	2493:16	information
2343:10	2521:18	2426:19,24,24	2494:7	2346:20
2395:22	2522:6	2427:18	2499:25	2384:4 2415:5
2399:6 2404:2	increases	2436:13	2505:26	2420:9,21
2405:19	2439:8	2446:23	2506:2 2510:5	2422:15
2415:5,21,22	2460:14	2469:17	2519:23	2444:24
2415:24	2513:25	2486:9	individual's	2445:15
2433:20	increasing	2504:25	2513:25	2518:23
2436:8	2407:6 2436:7	individually	industry	informed
2438:18	2447:26	2483:4	2402:12	2519:7,9
2443:1,10	2461:4 2473:6	individuals	2403:1,5	ingest 2428:17
2488:21	2509:10	2358:14	2416:2	ingested
inclusive 1:15	increasingly	2379:25	2442:20	2383:19
income 2489:23	2396:22	2383:6 2386:3	2443:4,9	ingestion
2490:18,21,23	2397:2,22	2396:20,23	2444:3 2453:9	2383:14
incorporated	2405:23	2406:3,7,9,16	2461:21	initial 2366:19
2345:6 2516:2	incredibly	2407:20	industry's	2373:18
incorporates	2462:7	2408:9,15,20	2399:10,14,23	2429:9
2453:18	incrementally	2408:26	2400:6,14	2432:22
incorporating	2406:17	2411:24	2402:2,25	initially 2350:17
2409:26	independent	2415:21	2403:9	2421:10
increase	2442:18	2418:25	2404:21	injected
2350:16	2458:23	2423:11	2423:4	2382:19
2376:20	2464:21	2426:6,7,25	inextricably	injecting
2418:13,17,18	2509:19	2427:10	2413:22	2352:16
2439:2 2441:4	independently	2429:21	infamous	2439:20
2441:8,12	2445:4	2430:7,13	2453:8	injury 2460:6
2442:20	2458:22	2431:25	infiltrating	inordinate
2444:11	index 2436:19	2432:3 2433:1	2441:26	2513:5
2445:21,24	indicate 2389:2	2435:7 2439:5	influence	inpatients
2446:8,14	2458:23	2440:24	2399:24	2413:13
2467:16	2491:19	2449:26	2404:22	inside 2415:3
2468:15	indicated	2453:11	2489:25	2423:14
increased	2417:6	2459:10	influenced	2440:24
	l			



				rage 20
insidious	2419:15	2445:12	investigators	2468:5,19
2503:21	interdose	2519:15	2348:2	2470:13
insofar 2522:20	2486:11,18	2522:17	invited 2399:19	2508:4,18
insomnia	2487:1,5	interviews	2404:24	2512:25
2430:11	interest 2373:4	2415:2 2516:2	2464:1	2512.25
instance	2450:9	2518:22	involved 2380:9	issues 2330:11
2486:14	2450.9	intoxication	2380:18	2334:10
2487:18	2489:18	2510:6	2387:4,12,15	2337:18
instances	2490:16	intravenous	2387:22,23	2397:1,1
2351:12	interested	2380:10,19	2421:8	2398:7 2399:2
2352:20	2417:19	2381:10	involvement	2407:11
2352:20	interim 2332:6	intravenously	2421:12	item 2330:12
2411:18	internal	2343:3	2445:5	item 2330.12
2411.18	2394:11	introduce	involves 2386:8	2520:12
2417:14	2456:26	2330:21	inwardly	I-N-D-E-X 6:1
2417:14	2472:12	2332:13	2478:26	I.D 7:2
instinctively	2472.12	introduced	in-service	i.e 2498:21
2431:26	2500:18	2469:22	2349:2	1.0 2470.21
Institute	2504:23	2481:6,13	IQVIA 2330:15	- J
2404:25	internally	introduction	2331:20,23	$\frac{3}{\text{J} 1:20 6:7}$
institutions	2455:13	2456:20	irrelevant	JAMA 2475:7
2490:2	2455:13	2436:20	2359:22	James 5:4
	2436:21 2472:2 2479:4	intrusive	2369:1	2389:11,13
instructing 2358:24		2430:11	2508:19	james.collie@
instructor	interposes 2373:5	inundated	irreversible	5:7
2361:2	interpreted	2520:26	2412:3	Janssen 1:10,11
insufficient	2445:14	invasive 2341:4	irritability	1:12 4:3,3,4,4
2487:12,19	interrelations	invasive 2341:4 investigate	2430:11	2377:4
2488:10	2404:1	2444:5 2515:5	isolated 2467:12	2401:25
integrating	-	investigated	issue 2331:8	2457:25
2407:14	interrupt 2444:20	2445:4 2468:5	2334:13	2458:1
				2459:15,21
intelligence 2346:20	2474:11,24 intertwined	2514:18,26 2518:4	2335:13,16,18 2335:19	2490:23
	2413:22			2491:10
intelligible	interval 2451:18	investigating	2336:5,15,20	2499:2
2433:9 intend 2332:13		2516:10	2356:24 2362:24	JAN-CA-1020
	2452:5	investigation 2444:22		7:11
intended 2330:26	intervenous		2363:10	JAN-CA-6023
	2341:4	2469:26	2370:1,20,23	2462:15
2392:2 2468:4 intends 2331:1	intervention 2407:23	2515:9	2371:9,9,12 2373:7	2498:4
intends 2331:1	interventions	investigations 2348:1	2374:20	JAN-CA-6029
2343:8	2492:22	2386:20,23	2388:6 2392:1	7:13
	interviewed	2387:11,14	2392:5	JAN-CA-6029
intentionally 2414:15		2388:1	2392:3	7:13
2414:13	2417:10,12	2300:1	2402:18	1.13
	l		l	l



JAN-CA-6029	2395:12	2381:26	5:16	2420:15
7:14	Joint 2415:26	June 2381:26	KARUN 3:3	2432:21
JAN-CA-6029	2443:7	Junior 2340:4	karun.tilak@	2469:23
7:14	2520:17	jurisdiction	3:7	2491:6
JAN-CA-6029	Jon 2414:5	2497:6,8	Katz 2498:18	KIRKLAND
7:15	2452:21	2522:21	KAVITA 3:4	5:12
JAN-CA-6029	2455:3,8,25	jurisdictions	kavita.naraya	Kirkpatrick
7:15	2457:10	2362:25	3:7	2366:17
JAN-CA-6029	2469:3	2363:2	KAYE 4:22	kits 2354:18
7:16	2471:16	2370:23	kcalcagnie@r	Klimas 2475:4,8
JAN-CA-6029	2473:10	JUSTICE 1:2	2:6	know 2334:17
7:16	2474:14	justify 2470:17	kding@huest	2334:26
JAN-CA-6030	2475:16	2487:12	4:21	2336:17
7:11	2484:26	juxtapose	keep 2335:24	2344:19
JAN-CA-6030	2487:8	2502:20	2336:6	2359:25
7:12	2489:15	juxtaposition	2400:20	2378:7,23,26
JAN-CA-6030	2494:17	2502:15	2419:12	2379:8
7:12	2499:8,20		2484:13	2382:18
jburk@huest	2501:18	K	2502:22,24	2387:23
4:21	2505:12	Kaba 4:15	keeping 2383:26	2407:5
jcolombo@m	2510:25	2402:26	Keller 2331:11	2421:26
2:17	Jose 3:6	2409:24	2332:20,21,26	2434:19
JENNIFER	JOSEPH 3:20	2446:10	Keller's 2331:25	2439:3 2452:7
5:14	Josh 4:16	2463:7,15	kept 2356:20	2460:2
jennifer.levy	2357:5,8,9	2464:5	2420:6	2466:25
5:17	2368:6	2466:24	2422:11	2475:20
JESSICA 2:12	journal 2451:14	2470:26	KEVIN 2:4	2480:24
jhueston@hu	2475:25	2480:5	key 2440:25	2481:16
4:18	2488:8	2481:15	2443:4,10	2483:7
Jick 2453:9,17	2500:19	2490:10	2474:3	2495:19
2458:26	Judge 1:20	2495:3,9,13	2485:25,25	2496:11
2459:4	2479:21	2496:19,21	2498:16	2497:1 2507:7
job 2339:24	judge's 2503:3	2515:11	keywords	2508:19
2440:21	judiciously	2522:13	2461:17	2519:1
jobs 2429:24	2411:20	Kadian 2386:1	khermiz@mo	knowing 2359:5
JOHN 4:14	2416:14	2386:4,8	2:16	knowledge
Johns 2399:19	JULIA 3:5	2456:12,16,17	KIESCHNICK	2423:2,6,9
2414:11	Julian 2337:10	2456:19	3:4	2473:14
Johnson 1:10,10	2338:5,7	2472:5,6	kind 2344:9	2503:4
4:3,3 2377:4,4	julia.spiegel@	2498:23	2348:17	known 2350:19
join 2394:15	3:8	KAREN 4:17	2353:1	2352:22
2410:1	July 2340:11	Karl 5:13	2388:24	2381:13
2522:13	2345:20	2385:10,14	2396:23	2408:17
joining 2394:14	2366:12	karl.stampfl	2416:6	2426:23
L				



2452:25	2487:16	2396:8	2419:3	2523:1,8
Korb 1:5	lasts 2485:11	2397:14,20	LEGAL 1:24	Lembke's
KRISTEN 2:11	late 2423:11	leading 2414:20	legitimate	2512:20
	2441:9	2432:14	2461:24,25	lethal 2436:20
L	2490:19	2480:6	2478:14	letter 2459:1,4
lab 2386:6	2520:25	2504:24	2482:21,25	let's 2332:6
labeled 2359:17	latest 2420:6	2515:11	2521:2	2334:8
2362:3	launched	learned 2430:6	legs 2466:9	2335:24
Laboratories	2382:4	2515:22	Lembke 6:10	2337:23
1:14 5:2,10	Laurendeau	learning 2361:4	2390:24	2338:17
laboratory	2390:26	2361:4	2392:23	2360:9 2387:8
2424:4,9	2391:1 2392:1	2456:12,16,17	2393:10,16,20	2405:14
laced 2378:11	2392:3	2456:19	2394:1,5	2445:20
2382:12	LAURENDE	2471:26	2395:26	2449:11
2383:13	4:7	2472:1,5,6	2402:3,8	2455:3
lack 2376:5	law 2:8 2344:25	2478:25	2403:13	2459:14
2401:26	2345:1,6	leave 2460:4	2408:3,20	2484:15
2442:4	2399:18	2487:6	2431:5,11	2488:24
2443:19	lawyers 2415:13	2515:20	2439:13	2490:15
2463:15	lay 2372:25	leaves 2365:21	2442:15	2499:10
2491:19	2425:20	leave-behind	2444:10,20	2504:11,18
2522:10	2442:11	2358:21	2445:20	level 2340:26
lacking 2490:11	2443:2 2444:4	leaving 2358:26	2447:12	2342:3
lacks 2351:26	2464:17	2416:19	2448:11	2343:21
2359:21	2468:13	lecture 2405:2	2449:16	2347:21
2477:23,24	2514:5	lectured	2451:6	2348:21
2479:12	2522:16	2404:13,18	2452:17	2356:18
laid 2369:19	laying 2362:20	lectures 2399:3	2462:11	2357:23
2442:7,8	2464:7	2401:7	2463:11,20	2373:23
landed 2423:17	2468:14	lecturing 2483:7	2464:21	2386:5
language	2512:18,21	led 2419:4	2465:19	2428:14,21
2498:24	layperson	2438:15,15	2467:20	2432:18
2502:2	2354:12	2445:16	2468:5 2469:1	2502:12
large 2379:19	lays 2364:4	left 2337:3	2470:10	levels 2474:7
2380:4,5	lead 2344:7	2461:16	2481:2 2482:4	LEVY 5:14
2417:26	2425:3	2502:1	2483:6,23	LEWIS 5:3
2452:13,14	2438:25	left-hand	2485:2	liaison 2349:5
2476:4	2439:5,23	2456:3	2489:18	2357:19
2505:25	2446:8	2476:13	2493:21	liberal 2434:11
larger 2463:13	2480:18	2489:21	2495:24	2440:26
2464:3,25	leaders 2440:25	2503:9	2506:8	2518:7
LaSalle 5:15	2443:4,11	2511:14,23	2509:12	license 2340:14
lasting 2346:17	2474:3	legacy 2418:19	2510:16	2340:17
2485:14	leadership	2418:23	2514:2 2516:4	2400:20
L				



				Tage 23
licensed	2411:12	2400:12	2498:11,21	looked 2346:14
2340:24	2413:26	2406:20	2499:5 2510:3	2346:26
2394:17,20	2414:2,7	2428:10	2520:26	2413:25
lied 2415:22	2415:2 2419:7	2440:4	longer 2429:11	2419:19,20
Lieff 2421:7,16	2419:10,24	2449:16,21	2432:24	2420:8,9
life 2343:21	2420:16	2450:10	2439:9	2445:3 2465:4
2412:11	2422:18	2471:11	2460:23,23	2465:4
2440:9,23	2423:8	2474:15	2487:3,17	2471:12
2459:21,23	2435:18	2483:5	2493:26	2476:20
2499:5	2443:1 2445:7	live 2336:7	2494:1	2513:10
2508:14	2448:21	2407:7 2434:8	long-acting	2515:19,22
2510:3	2458:20	2508:13,18	2508:24	2519:1,2
LIFLAND 4:8	2459:18,24	lived 2358:25	2509:9	looking 2330:23
light 2343:17	2460:16	2400:10	long-term	2343:16
2354:13	2465:4,9	liver 2502:23	2433:4 2485:4	2344:6
lighter 2352:15	2466:3,5	lives 2359:6	2487:21	2387:17
lighters 2344:10	2467:23	2412:10	2492:15	2395:26
limine 2442:6	2469:13	2429:23	2493:8	2396:15
2467:19,19	2470:4,15	2432:8	2497:20,25	2470:14
limited 2435:23	2473:24	living 2412:11	look 2330:17	2471:13
2438:24	2485:12	2432:4	2334:7	2496:5,22
2465:16	2487:13	2478:21	2343:13,24	2500:3
2520:10	2492:4,5,6,12	2483:13	2344:2	2517:11,21,25
line 2333:17	2498:18	LLC 1:14 5:3,11	2360:16	2518:19
2334:1	2499:14	LLP 3:20 4:5,13	2371:25	looks 2337:17
2416:15	2504:16	5:3,12	2388:23	2348:13
2494:3	2505:3,17	located 2362:1	2389:2,4	loose 2344:8
2498:24,25	2507:20	2413:12	2403:17	Los 3:10,10,12
lines 2381:6	2515:10,16,19	log 2384:4	2419:15,16,25	4:9,18,24
linked 2512:8	2515:25,26	long 2339:3	2420:21,24	lose 2461:1
linking 2446:23	2516:7,9,20	2340:6 2341:8	2422:3	lost 2409:16
liquid 2381:16	2517:2,6,20	2345:24	2438:12	2430:14
2509:24	2518:10,11,14	2398:9	2447:18	2456:17
list 2331:6,15,19	2518:21,24	2401:10	2455:5,7	lots 2413:12,14
2333:2,14,15	2519:2,4	2416:20	2456:25	2512:1
2334:4	litigation	2429:3 2430:1	2471:7 2475:9	low 2436:19
2336:12,13	2415:12	2433:2,11	2477:11	2441:15
2467:4 2491:1	2420:10	2459:13	2481:2	2477:3,6
listed 2332:10	2421:9,17	2473:20	2489:13	2486:4,5
2333:20	2445:5	2476:21	2492:5 2494:9	lower 2406:8
2336:7	2448:26	2482:13	2494:10	2417:2
2453:18	little 2351:10	2486:1 2488:4	2497:16	2504:25
literature	2377:7	2492:8,13	2501:10,12	2506:24
2403:10	2398:26	2493:9,17	2504:14	2507:12
		l	1	l



	•	•	•	rage so
lowered	M	manifestations	2521:16	1:11
2493:11	M 4:15	2401:18	2522:4,18	McPHERSON
lowering 2505:9	Madam 2337:13	manner 2354:16	material	3:16 2337:8,9
lowest 2416:16	2393:1	2405:17	2415:13	2337:17
low-risk	made-up	2489:26	2463:3	2338:12,13,15
2475:11	2469:24	manufactured	2471:13	2352:18
Lucas 4:6 6:7	2473:1	2388:13	2472:12,13	2353:11
2351:18,22	Magna 1:24	manufacturer	2478:22	2355:2,5,11,16
2353:5	2455:6	2459:26	2519:17,26	2355:17,23
2354:25	maintain	manufacturers	materials	2356:12
2355:21	2398:12	2443:10	2361:8,11	2359:13,25
2356:7	maintained	2488:23	2364:3,9	2360:11,12
2359:18,21	2361:15,17	mark 2:3 3:20	2365:20	2362:7,17
2362:9 2363:4	maintenance	2497:13	2472:16	2363:6,21
2363:13,15	2431:22	marked 2333:12	2479:7 2480:3	2364:1,18,20
2367:4,7	2448:5,5,10	marketed	2480:10,17,25	2367:16,19,20
2368:23	2509:24,25	2436:17	2516:16	2368:21
2369:21,23	major 2419:11	marketing	matter 2337:25	2369:5 2370:3
2370:21	2518:20	2399:10,15	2348:26	2370:6,17
2372:11	majority 2401:6	2400:6,14	2371:5	2371:24
2373:2 2376:9	2426:20	2402:2,10,16	2389:20	2372:1,16,24
2376:26	2435:7 2491:5	2402:18	2393:5 2394:7	2373:11,13,16
2377:2,3,24	2491:26	2422:23	2421:13	2374:12,14,24
2378:17	making 2357:20	2423:3,4,10,16	2424:22	2374:25
2379:7,23	2461:23	2438:14	2488:17	2376:15,22,24
2380:15	2473:2	2442:8	2502:22	2377:20
2381:5,18	2510:12	2443:17	2508:19	2378:13
2382:15,17,22	2512:3	2445:3,4	matters 2339:13	2379:2,21
2383:5,8,22,24	Malia 3:16	2454:12	2351:25	2380:11
2384:15,25	2337:8	2463:22	MAYER 4:15	2381:2
2385:4,7	malignant	2464:2,23	ma'am 2337:21	2382:14
2390:4	2498:14	2465:7	2337:22	2383:21
Lucky 2479:21	management	2472:12,15,20	2339:26	2384:10,23
Luftig 2357:6,8	2457:17	2478:7 2480:2	2353:10	2386:25
2357:9 2368:6	2458:12	2480:9	2355:26	2387:26
LUKE 3:5	2460:17	2494:24	2376:14	2388:18
luke.edwards	2498:13	2495:9,10,15	2377:22	2389:15,18,25
3:9	managing	2495:19,21,25	2379:5	2390:2
lunch 2333:25	2413:19	2497:4,8	2380:13	mcrawford@
Lynn 2474:3	2506:13	2501:24	2383:10	3:22
L-E-M-B-K-E	mandated	2508:7	2384:14	MD 2393:10
2393:16	2400:17,19,23	2510:16	2389:22	2414:12,15
L.P 1:9	mandatory	2511:11	2390:7	2422:22
	2400:18	2519:10,10,16	MCNEIL-JA	2445:12
F				



				rage 31
MDL 2421:17	2393:24	2499:13	2414:17,18	2357:1,8
mean 2341:23	2393:24	2504:15	2414:17,18	2366:10
2348:6 2370:9	2395:6,8,10,15	2505:2,16	2419:3,23	2404:12
2372:17	2395:17	2507:19	2419.4	2474:16
2375:20	2396:16	2513:11,17	2436:18	2520:3
2382:22	2397:8,11,15	2515:11,17	2438:11,13	mentoring
2396:22	2397:37	2516:6,9,19,20	2440:20,25	2397:7
2406:6	2398:6 2399:3	2516:0,9,19,20	2459:6	merely 2437:26
2418:23	2398:0 2399:3	2517:1,5	2474:26	2438:9
2418.23	2400:11,17,23	2517.1,5	2474.20	2505:22
2427:23	2400:11,17,23	2519:15	2488:9 2489:8	Mesa 5:6
2433:23	2401.19	2520:7	2500:18	
2441:21,22	2402.3	2522:17	2515:24	message 2454:20
2444:15	2403.10,23	medically	medicolegal	2464:2,23
2457:4	2415:2,25	2509:18	2416:26	2478:7 2480:2
2474:11,24	2417:21,23	2513:24,25	medium 2477:4	2478.7.2480.2
2491:21	2417:21,23	Medicare	2477:7	2499:23
2503:10	2420:16	2517:11,17	MEDLINE	2501:3,25
2512:13	2422:17	medication	2419:12	2503:21
meaning	2423:8,15,20	2454:14	meet 2405:26	2520:26
2374:11	2423:20	medications	2505:21	messages
2423:26	2439:1	2407:24	2503.21	2400:10,26
2424:2	2440:17	2409:14	meeting	2401:21
2436:20	2442:1 2443:1	2458:6,7	2336:18	2402:11,16,19
2450:25	2443:5,12,13	2492:21	2366:13	2402:23
means 2367:13	2445:6	2509:23	2381:25	2416:8
2383:15	2448:20	2511:16,17	2402:4,8	2423:10,16
2396:4,6,12	2449:10	medicinal	2408:16	2442:20
2408:4 2424:8	2458:20	2453:6	2426:9	2443:13,14
2450:13	2459:18	medicine 2349:1	melt 2352:14	2445:3,4,6,8
2451:19,20	2460:4,16	2349:4	melted 2381:16	2445:13,14
2452:6	2461:24	2393:23,23,24	member 2348:9	2448:14,18,19
2482:12	2465:4 2466:2	2393:25,26	2348:25	2449:5,6,9,10
2503:12,13	2466:21	2394:11,17,20	members	2456:5 2457:2
meant 2415:24	2467:22	2394:24	2361:19	2457:8,14
2442:2	2468:1	2395:4,23	2491:3,5	2462:21,23
measure 2454:5	2469:13	2396:2,8,16	mental 2395:19	2463:5 2465:7
measured	2470:2,15	2397:4,18,20	2396:21,26,26	2465:8,10
2476:20	2473:23	2398:15	2400:24	2470:21
measures	2474:1,8,23	2399:25	2476:12,14	2471:3,6,12
2434:23	2482:26	2404:3	2483:2	2472:21
2450:4,15	2487:13	2410:22,25	mentioned	2477:12,22
2459:23	2489:7 2492:3	2411:1,2,3,21	2347:17	2478:13
medical 2340:2	2492:12	2412:18	2356:26	2479:7,17
	- · -			,
	-	-	-	-



2482:5,16 2452:15 million 2408:5 2502:25 2436:9 2494:24 2458:13,21 mind 2333:21 2503:18,21 2439:21,21 2495:9,10 methadone 2467:3 2510:18 2440:2 2497:8 2409:16,17 2470:10 2511:18 2449:25 2500:26 2424:10 2482:20 2512:1 2519:6 2450:11,12,13 2502:3,25 2431:22 mindful 2442:6 2521:19 2450:16,17 2503:17,23 2448:4,5,9 2492:23 misnomer misnomer misusing 2510:17 2509:24,25 2492:23 minmal 2520:8 2409:13 2418:11 2510:11 methampheta 2520:9 2449:12 mkaba@hues 2523:3 2379:19,26 minimize 2456:18 4:19 2395:22 2382:12 2382:12 2467:13,14,15 3:18 2399:6 2400:9 2383:12 2467:25 MME 2446:18 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 249:26 2469:2,6 2447:13
2494:24 2458:13,21 mind 2333:21 2503:18,21 2439:21,21 2495:9,10 methadone 2467:3 2510:18 2440:2 2497:8 2409:16,17 2470:10 2511:18 2449:25 2500:26 2424:10 2482:20 2512:1 2519:6 2450:11,12,13 2502:3,25 2431:22 mindful 2442:6 2521:19 2450:16,17 2503:17,23 2448:4,5,9 mind-body 2523:2 2451:10,16 2510:17 2509:24,25 2492:23 misnomer 2418:11 2519:11 methampheta 2520:9 249:13 misrepresenta 2520:13 2378:11,19 2520:9 2449:12 mkaba@hues 2523:3 2379:19,26 minimize 2456:18 4:19 messaging 2380:4,6 2375:22 2457:20 mmcpherson 2395:22 2382:12 minute 5:19 2467:13,14,15 MME 2446:18 240:13 methampheta 2349:6 2467:25 MME 2446:26 240:40:47 2365:7
2495:9,10 methadone 2467:3 2510:18 2440:2 2497:8 2409:16,17 2470:10 2511:18 2449:25 2500:26 2424:10 2482:20 2512:1 2519:6 2450:11,12,13 2502:3,25 2431:22 mindful 2442:6 2521:19 2450:16,17 2503:17,23 2448:4,5,9 mind-body 2523:2 2451:10,16 2510:17 2509:24,25 2492:23 misnomer misusing 2511:14 2510:2 minimal 2520:8 2409:13 mixed 2378:19 2520:13 2378:11,19 2520:9 2449:12 mkaba@hues 2523:3 2379:19,26 minimize 2456:18 4:19 2395:22 2382:12 minor 2414:20 2463:22,23 3:18 2399:6 2400:9 2383:12 minute 5:19 2467:13,14,15 MMEs 2446:18 2401:13 methampheta 2349:6 2467:25 2469:2,6 2447:13
2497:8 2409:16,17 2470:10 2511:18 2449:25 2500:26 2424:10 2482:20 2512:1 2519:6 2450:11,12,13 2502:3,25 2431:22 mindful 2442:6 2521:19 2450:16,17 2503:17,23 2448:4,5,9 mind-body 2523:2 2451:10,16 2510:17 2509:24,25 2492:23 misnomer misusing 2511:14 2510:2 Mine 2357:19 misrepresenta mixed 2378:19 2520:13 2378:11,19 2520:9 2449:12 mkaba@hues 2523:3 2379:19,26 minimize 2456:18 4:19 2395:22 2382:12 minor 2414:20 2463:22,23 3:18 2399:6 2400:9 2383:12 minute 5:19 2467:13,14,15 MME 2446:18 2401:13 methampheta 2349:6 2467:25 MMEs 2446:26 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 minutes 2339:2 2469:2,6 2447:13
2500:26 2424:10 2482:20 2512:1 2519:6 2450:11,12,13 2502:3,25 2431:22 mindful 2442:6 2521:19 2450:16,17 2503:17,23 2448:4,5,9 2509:24,25 2492:23 misnomer 2451:10,16 2511:14 2510:2 Mine 2357:19 2409:13 2418:11 2520:13 2378:11,19 2520:9 2449:12 mkaba@hues 2523:3 2379:19,26 minimize 2456:18 4:19 messaging 2380:4,6 2375:22 2463:22,23 3:18 2399:6 2400:9 2383:12 minute 5:19 2467:13,14,15 MME 2446:18 2401:13 methampheta 2349:6 2467:25 MMEs 2446:26 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 minutes 2339:2 2469:2,6 2447:13
2502:3,25 2431:22 mindful 2442:6 2521:19 2450:16,17 2503:17,23 2448:4,5,9 mind-body 2523:2 2451:10,16 2510:17 2509:24,25 2492:23 misnomer misusing 2511:14 2510:2 methampheta 2409:13 2418:11 2520:13 2378:11,19 2520:9 2449:12 mkaba@hues 2523:3 2379:19,26 minimize 2456:18 4:19 messaging 2380:4,6 2375:22 2457:20 mmcpherson 2399:6 2400:9 2383:12 minute 5:19 2467:13,14,15 MME 2446:18 2401:13 methampheta 2349:6 2467:25 MMEs 2446:26 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 minutes 2339:2 2469:2,6 2447:13
2503:17,23 2448:4,5,9 mind-body 2523:2 2451:10,16 2510:17 2509:24,25 2492:23 misnomer 2418:11 2511:14 2510:2 methampheta 2520:8 misrepresenta 2418:11 2520:13 2378:11,19 2520:9 2449:12 mkaba@hues 2523:3 2379:19,26 minimize 2456:18 4:19 messaging 2380:4,6 2375:22 2457:20 mmcpherson 2395:22 2382:12 minute 5:19 2467:13,14,15 MME 2446:18 2401:13 methampheta 2349:6 2467:25 MMEs 2446:26 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 minutes 2339:2 2469:2,6 2447:13
2510:17 2509:24,25 2492:23 misnomer misusing 2511:14 2510:2 Mine 2357:19 2409:13 2418:11 2519:11 methampheta 2378:11,19 2520:9 2449:12 mkaba@hues 2523:3 2379:19,26 minimize 2456:18 4:19 messaging 2380:4,6 2375:22 2457:20 mmcpherson 2395:22 2382:12 minute 5:19 2467:13,14,15 MME 2446:18 2401:13 methampheta 2349:6 2467:25 MMEs 2446:26 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 minutes 2339:2 2469:2,6 2447:13
2511:14 2510:2 Mine 2357:19 2409:13 2418:11 2519:11 methampheta 2520:8 minimal 2520:8 misrepresenta mixed 2378:19 2520:13 2378:11,19 2520:9 2449:12 mkaba@hues 2523:3 2379:19,26 minimize 2456:18 4:19 2395:22 2382:12 minor 2414:20 2463:22,23 3:18 2399:6 2400:9 2383:12 minute 5:19 2467:13,14,15 MME 2446:18 2401:13 methampheta 2349:6 2467:25 MMEs 2446:26 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 minutes 2339:2 2469:2,6 2447:13
2519:11 methampheta minimal 2520:8 misrepresenta mixed 2378:19 2520:13 2378:11,19 2520:9 2449:12 mkaba@hues 2523:3 2379:19,26 minimize 2456:18 4:19 messaging 2380:4,6 2375:22 2457:20 mmcpherson 2395:22 2382:12 minute 5:19 2467:13,14,15 MME 2446:18 2401:13 methampheta 2349:6 2467:25 MMEs 2446:26 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 minutes 2339:2 2469:2,6 2447:13
2520:13 2378:11,19 2520:9 2449:12 mkaba@hues 2523:3 2379:19,26 minimize 2456:18 4:19 messaging 2380:4,6 2375:22 2467:20 mmcpherson 2395:22 2382:12 minor 2414:20 2463:22,23 3:18 2399:6 2400:9 2383:12 minute 5:19 2467:13,14,15 MME 2446:18 2401:13 methampheta 2349:6 2467:25 MMEs 2446:26 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 minutes 2339:2 2469:2,6 2447:13
2523:3 2379:19,26 minimize 2456:18 4:19 messaging 2380:4,6 2375:22 2457:20 mmcpherson 2395:22 2382:12 minor 2414:20 2463:22,23 3:18 2399:6 2400:9 2383:12 minute 5:19 2467:13,14,15 MME 2446:18 2401:13 methampheta 2349:6 2467:25 MMEs 2446:26 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 minutes 2339:2 2469:2,6 2447:13
messaging 2380:4,6 2375:22 2457:20 mmcpherson 2395:22 2382:12 2383:12 2463:22,23 3:18 2399:6 2400:9 2383:12 2467:13,14,15 MME 2446:18 2401:13 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 2349:6 2467:25 MMEs 2446:26 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 2467:25 2467:25 2447:13
2395:22 2382:12 minor 2414:20 2463:22,23 3:18 2399:6 2400:9 2383:12 minute 5:19 2467:13,14,15 MME 2446:18 2401:13 methampheta 2349:6 2467:25 MMEs 2446:26 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 minutes 2339:2 2469:2,6 2447:13
2399:6 2400:9 2383:12 minute 5:19 2467:13,14,15 MME 2446:18 2401:13 methampheta 2349:6 2467:25 MMEs 2446:26 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 minutes 2339:2 2469:2,6 2447:13
2401:13 methampheta 2349:6 2467:25 MMEs 2446:26 2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 minutes 2339:2 2469:2,6 2447:13
2403:4 2404:7 2365:7 minutes 2339:2 2469:2,6 2447:13
1 2222
2404:21 method 2344:12 2346:18 2473:11 modalities
2415:6 2516:8 2404:12 2479:4,8 2361:4
2441:25 methodology 2408:3 2480:11 modality
2444:1 2422:14 mirror 2334:5 2481:8 2484:7 2344:15
2448:11 2446:25 miseducation 2485:3 2357:15
2461:13 2516:18 2404:9 2497:24 moderate
2463:1 2468:1 2517:16 misleading 2498:8 2449:26
2471:8,20 2519:24 2395:22 2499:10,11 2450:26
2478:11 MICHAEL 2:9 2399:6 2403:4 2504:11,14 2451:3 2452:2
2479:3,3 4:6 2415:6 2511:6 2452:11
2493:21 middle 2474:20 2441:25 misrepresenta 2454:7
2494:11,12 2503:9 2442:9,19 2449:3 2467:5 modern 2489:11
2501:13 midst 2506:12 2444:1,6 2467:21 modest 2441:15
2510:22 mild 2408:1 2445:10 2468:19,24,25 Modesto 2340:4
2511:12 2450:18,22,26 2456:5 2457:7 2477:18,19 MOEZ 4:15
2512:1 2451:2 2457:14 2483:5,10,12 molecule
2518:20,25
2519:6,7,8,17 milligram 2467:11,26 2521:16,17 moment
2519:19,21,26 2441:18 2470:21 2522:4,5 2355:13
2520:5,6 2446:18 2472:23,24 missed 2354:11 2359:24
2522:18 2447:5,7,8 2478:11 misstates 2360:1,3
met 2451:1 2448:1,6 2482:7,8,9,16 2379:3 2370:5
2505:22 2477:7,8,10 2483:18 misunderstood 2371:14
metal 2354:14 2500:1 2493:23 2443:25 2390:26
metaphorically milligrams 2494:3 2501:3 misuse 2409:7 2402:5 2410:3
2428:22 2446:24 2501:4,7 2410:6 2442:5 2467:2
meta-analysis 2476:26 2502:3,10,17 2411:18 2467:9



				rage 33
2477:25	2448:1,6	2404:4 2411:7	2362:5,23	2351:1,2
2480:15	2477:7,8,10	2415:3	2363:24	2436:20
2504:7	2500:1	2422:10	2364:14,22,25	nearby 2344:8
Monday	MORRIS 4:23	2437:23,24	2365:2,5,10,13	Nearly 2473:18
2336:26	mortality	2450:5	2365:16,24	necessarily
monitored	2462:9	2458:19	2366:2,8,11,19	2481:25
2411:20	2502:14	2463:5	2366:23	necessary
2419:11	mother 2409:15	mute 2334:15	2368:2 2369:2	2411:26
month 2342:24	motion 2467:19	2334:18	2369:8,9,14	2413:16
2343:11	motions 2442:6	2431:7	2370:14,18,18	need 2331:9
months 2340:7	2467:18	MYERS 4:5	2371:10	2333:20
2347:19	MOTLEY 2:8	myoder@om	2373:18,22,23	2335:16
2373:19	mounting	4:9	2373:26	2336:2,18
2429:16,22	2494:1	myth 2458:1,5	2374:4,16,20	2346:6 2359:8
2430:2,10	move 2335:5	2458:15	2375:1,1,3,4,6	2359:9 2366:1
2431:13	2362:7	2459:15	2375:17,24	2367:7
2476:23	2368:21	2460:9	2376:2	2368:18
2485:11,13,14	2373:11	myths 2416:2	2381:21	2369:15
2485:17	2374:14,23		2382:7,18,26	2370:18
2486:6,10,22	2383:23	N	2383:11,15	2383:9 2385:2
2487:17	2387:7	naloxone	2384:1,4,21,26	2404:4 2406:1
mood 2394:13	2401:26	2344:18	2386:19	2407:22
morass 2443:14	2409:24	naltrexone	narcotics	2418:20
morbidity	2414:5 2416:9	2509:25	2348:18	2424:8
2462:9	2442:3	name 2338:3,4	narrative	2444:24
2502:14	2443:18	2347:16,18,20	2409:26	2460:14
2511:19	2455:17	2357:1,2	narrow 2362:18	2461:2,7,18
MORGAN 5:3	2470:26	2377:3	narrower	2474:25
MORIARTY	2490:10	2385:14	2468:4	2479:25
2:10	2503:5 2504:4	2393:14,15	2518:19	2483:7 2484:1
morning 2330:2	moved 2332:20	named 2435:1	nasal 2343:3	2495:18
2330:9	movement	names 2342:16	National	2503:2 2523:9
2338:11,17	2440:22	NARAYAN 3:4	2438:12	needed 2346:20
2339:18	moving 2362:15	Narcan 2344:17	2515:23	2363:9
2386:16	2410:10	2344:21	nationally	2421:20
2390:12	mpendell@m	2349:5,7	2441:12	2422:8
2392:26	2:14	2356:25	naturally	needing 2426:14
2393:20	Mt 2:13	2357:3,24,25 2357:25	2423:25	2426:17,26
2523:19	multifactorial		2424:3	needle 2354:15
morphine	2415:20	2358:3,9,13,16	nature 2336:1	2356:23
2424:1	multiple	2358:23,26 2359:4	2403:26	needles 2356:20
2441:17	2396:26	2360:23	2409:23	needs 2391:3
2446:18,21,24	2399:16	2361:13	2433:21,23	2411:19
2447:5,6,8,10	2403:19	2301.13	near 2342:6	2429:12
	1	l	l	l



2468:13	nonmedical	2502:15,18,21	2434:2	2454:25
negligible	2344:2	2502:22	n/k/a 1:11,12	2465:12
2521:4	2349:22,26	nuisance	4:3,4 5:10	2466:24
neighborhood	2513:11,17	2363:11		2481:15
2433:22	nonmedically	number 2333:5	0	2495:5 2496:7
2434:6,8	2432:12	2367:15,17	Oakland 3:15	2496:23
neuroadaptati	2513:24,25	2383:26	3:17 2337:9	2521:21
2406:14	nonresponsive	2387:4,5	2338:19,21,24	2522:10
2428:23	2375:16	2389:2	2339:2,3,15,19	objection
2432:13	2410:8 2504:9	2391:26	2345:3,18	2331:3,7,13
2433:6	nonsteroidal	2406:6,22	2346:10	2332:15
2486:20	2502:16	2416:24	2348:4,10,12	2351:18,21,24
2504:21	non-opioid	2422:13	2348:15	2352:3 2353:5
neuroadaptive	2378:10	2441:24	2350:8,11,15	2354:25
2412:2 2430:3	2382:12	2444:15,17,19	2350:22	2355:14,21,22
neurology	2383:12	2447:14	2351:12	2356:7
2395:4	non-opioids	2449:12	2353:4,14,18	2359:19,20
2396:10,12,13	2342:9	2450:3	2354:2,5	2360:6 2362:9
neurons 2428:9	normal 2460:25	2452:13,14	2357:3,20	2363:4,17
2428:10	2485:10	2456:18	2363:2,12,23	2367:13
neuroscience	2499:4	2457:20	2364:7,13,22	2371:7,20
2395:25	normally	2469:4,4	2366:5,16	2372:11,12
2412:1,13	2458:16	2473:10,11	2368:10,18,19	2373:5,10
2427:20	2459:16	2475:15	2369:2,11,14	2376:9
neuroscientists	2460:2	2479:8	2369:20,26	2377:20
2428:15	North 5:15	2480:11	2370:12	2378:13
neurotransmi	Nos 2333:6	2481:8	2371:3,4	2379:2,21
2428:8	notable 2493:12	2482:12	2372:5,6	2380:11
neurotransmi	note 2453:7	2484:26	2373:7 2375:1	2381:2
2428:11	2522:14	2485:3,21	2375:5	2382:14
neutrality	noted 2336:20	2491:16	2378:12,26	2383:21
2428:16,26	2380:2	2493:24	2379:9,19,26	2384:10,23
2429:4,14	notes 2333:18	2497:24	2380:3,7,9,17	2386:25
never 2430:8	2333:18	2498:9 2499:7	2380:18	2387:26
new 2347:18	2391:15	2499:11	2381:3,8,22	2388:2,18
Newport 2:5	2330:11	2504:11	2384:1,3,21	2402:6,26
2330:14	notice 2456:2	2507:11,24	2388:9	2410:1 2442:9
night 2496:6	notion 2508:21	2511:7	2389:20	2443:25
noncancer	not-very-robust	numbers 2332:1	2394:12	2446:10
2475:24	2441:3	2387:18	oath 2431:6	2454:23
2489:4	November	2447:18	object 2330:19	2455:16,19,20
nonhearsay	2373:20	numerous	2368:23	2463:7,15,17
2362:21	2382:5	2512:26	2392:4	2464:5,13,16
2369:6	NSAIDs	nurture 2433:22	2409:24	2465:15
L				



_				Page 33
2470.26	obsowyes	2270.10	2296.16	2477:11
2470:26 2471:2	observes 2375:13	2370:10 2371:15	2386:16 2388:8	2477:11
				2483:6
2477:21,26 2479:11	observing 2351:23	2463:20,26 offering	2389:10,11,19 2389:19	2483:6
2480:5,7,13,16	obtain 2340:16	2351:22	2389:19	2484:23
2480:3,7,13,16	2347:1	2382:1	officers 2347:10	2489:2
	2366:23			2489:2
2490:10,13	2368:1	Office 3:2,10,15 2337:9	2357:26 2358:10	2492:11
2495:2,13,23	2516:19	officer 2337:10		
2496:9,20,20			2359:3	2497:14,22 2499:19
2497:2,9,11	obtained 2353:2	2338:16,25	2360:23	
2504:3	2366:20	2345:3,11,14	2361:12	2501:10,17
2512:14	2424:13,17	2346:3,9,15,26	2362:4,22	2509:21
2513:19	2513:24	2349:17	2364:2,4,5,10	2511:2,3,10
2515:11	obtaining	2350:10,18	2364:22,24	2514:7,8
2522:14,23,24	2516:8	2351:6,11	2365:2,5,9,19	2516:25
2522:25	obtains 2428:26	2352:25	2366:4	2517:16,17
objectionable	obviously	2353:18	2373:18	2518:8
2367:12	2335:16	2354:4,23	2384:3,7,16	2521:14
objections	occur 2427:12	2355:18,19	official 2382:1	Older 2457:18
2360:8	2503:10	2356:1,14,17	Oftentimes	2460:18
2364:16	occurred	2356:18,24	2356:20	omm.com 4:11
2367:4,9	2460:26	2358:21,23	Ogawa 3:17	once 2347:7
2495:4	occurring	2359:7	Oh 2387:9	2413:7
2496:12,15,26	2423:25	2360:13	2451:9	2428:26
observation	2424:3	2361:7	okay 2332:4	2487:1 2505:3
2459:2	occurs 2427:4	2363:24	2334:2,24	ones 2332:17,19
observations	2429:8	2364:2,6,15,21	2339:18	2341:3,23
2350:9	2432:14,15	2365:21	2341:21	2462:25
2351:10	2451:21,22,23	2366:5	2380:2 2382:4	one-page 2391:6
observe 2354:19	2487:2	2367:21	2407:9	OPD 2339:19
2409:21	2511:16	2369:9,17	2420:24	2345:13,21
observed 2350:7	October	2370:14	2421:2	2347:12
2350:11,14,24	2359:12	2372:2	2423:19	2349:11
2351:6,12,15	2382:5	2373:17	2440:10	2350:10
2351:17	odds 2499:24	2374:26	2444:19	2357:23,25
2352:2,4,6,10	ODs 2437:2	2375:9	2449:8,20	2358:3,16
2352:16,19,26	OFD 2375:6	2376:22,25	2450:21	2361:7,13
2353:3,13,18	offer 2331:11	2377:3	2452:23	2362:4,22,23
2353:21,23,24	2349:3 2352:1	2379:18,24	2454:16	2364:24
2354:1,5,9,23	2415:18	2380:7,16	2457:22	2365:2,5,9,19
2355:6,19	2465:20	2381:5	2458:7	2365:24
2356:2,5,9,11	2490:6	2382:24,26	2463:26	2366:2,8,11
2364:5,6	offered 2364:12	2383:9,25	2472:20	2372:5
2380:9,18	2369:26	2385:5,9,14	2475:13	2373:18
	<u>l</u>	<u>l</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>



				rage 30
2374:4,26	2515:20	2358:2,22	2414:21	2469:10,18
2375:9,17	2517:20 2517:20	2362:26	2415:12,19	2473:7,8
2376:2	2517.20	2362:20	2415:12,19	2474:1,2,21
2386:20,22	2522:8,9,20	2365:14,18	2417:11	2475:23,23
OPD's 2361:15	2523:1,2	2369:16	2417.11	2476:6,7,8,11
operates	opinions 2352:6	2370:24,25	2418:20,21,22	2476:0,7,8,11
2357:10	2419:5,10	2370.24,23	2420:10,11,12	2476:13,16,17
operational	2419.3,10	2374:18	2420.10,11,12	2470.21,23
2358:6	2421.4 2422.8	2374.16	2423:23	2482:25
Operations	2422.23	2377:14,14	2423.23	2485:20
2338:26	2438.9,10	2378:7 2382:7	2424.3,3,21,21	2486:9 2487:2
2347:20,22	2442:9	2382:8,9,13	2425:3,13,18	2487:12
2348:6	2443.23 2444:5	2382:0,9,13	2425:16,19,21	2488:7,19,23
opine 2497:3	2444.3	2384:8,17	2426:14,25	2489:3 2491:6
opinion 2351:23	2448:12	2385:16,26	2427:1,4	2491:18
2353:6	2465:19,20	2388:9,13,17	2428:17	2493:8
2354:26	2470:12	2388:25	2429:8,15	2495:20
2355:1	2476:12488:3	2389:21	2430:7	2500:5,11,24
2359:23	2488:17	2391:7	2431:18,21,23	2502:9
2368:26	2494:21	2391.7	2432:1 2433:4	2504:12,18,20
2373:3	2498:8	2392:13	2433:14,20	2504:12,18,20
2376:10	2501:24	2393.21	2434:20,22	2505:1,4,17,22
2405:12	2508:10	2398:7,23	2435:4,8,10,20	2506:13,16,20
2422:13,17	2512:22	2399:2,5,5,10	2437:6,7,11,14	2507:17,21,23
2437:9,20,22	2512.22	2399:14,15,23	2438:15	2507:17,21,23
2438:11,20	2514.2,0,0	2400:6,13	2439:1,3,6,7,8	2507.23,20
2443:4,11,26	2517:15	2400:0,13	2439:23,24	2509:14,22,26
2444:21,23,25	2517:13	2402:12,24	2441:10	2510:5,17,22
2462:20	2518:25	2403:1,5,5,11	2443:3,9,10	2511:7,19,20
2463:11	2521:15,21,22	2404:1,1,5,6	2444:3	2512:4,6
2464:11,13,15	2522:3	2405:26,26	2445:24	2513:2,16
2465:17	opioid 2341:26	2406:5,8,23,25	2446:15	2513.2,10
2467:14,17,25	2342:4,9,19	2407:15,21,22	2448:25	2515:1
2468:8,14	2343:14,24	2408:16,24,24	2449:24,25,26	2517:12,21,22
2472:20	2344:3,13,23	2408:26	2450:14,16,17	2518:19,25
2474:3,19	2350:24	2409:6,7,7,9	2450:18,22,24	2521:3 2523:4
2480:18	2351:13	2409:12	2450:24	2523:5
2482:4	2352:19	2410:6,6,7,15	2451:2,3,4,10	opioidphobia
2490:11	2353:4,14,19	2410:16,18,19	2454:14	2401:5
2493:21	2353:22	2410:21,23	2458:6,7	opioidphobic
2499:22	2354:2,5,20,24	2411:8,10,16	2459:3 2460:9	2520:14
2501:2 2504:6	2355:20	2411:16,17,17	2461:5,7,20	opioids 2341:15
2510:16	2356:2,6	2412:1,5	2462:7,19	2341:18,19,22
2514:5	2357:16	2413:20,21	2467:7 2469:7	2342:14,26
		· - · · · · · · · · ·	_ : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	
<u> </u>	· '	<u>'</u>		•



2349:10,13,24	2423:25	2459:11,12,15	2510:3,10,12	2343:15
2350:7,11,15	2424:5,7,11,12	2460:1,5,7,21	2510:3,10,12	2348:3 2350:3
2351:6,15,23	2424:12,16,17	2460:22,26	2513:11,17,23	2352:12
2352:1,11,16	2424:17,19,19	2461:20,23	2514:13,17,25	2354:15
2352:25	2424:23,25	2462:5 2463:2	2517:12	2400:20
2354:9	2425:2,6,7,24	2463:14	2518:1,7	2404:7 2422:8
2356:13,16	2426:6,7,8,13	2464:4,24,26	2519:12,17,22	2427:17
2376:1,8,17	2426:18,21	2465:6	2519:26	2429:13
2377:18,26	2427:6,6,9,13	2470:19,24	2520:1,16	2441:1
2378:8 2379:1	2428:4	2473:5,12,16	2521:18	2443:15
2379:9,10	2430:10	2473:16	2522:6	2444:23
2382:19	2431:14	2476:2	opioid-addicted	2445:7
2383:16	2432:1,2,6,9	2477:13,20	2448:4	2447:16
2387:4,6,15,22	2432:11,16,20	2478:8 2479:9	opioid-depen	2495:10
2387:23	2433:1,10,12	2480:12	2417:2 2462:4	2515:16
2394:26	2434:13,17	2481:9 2482:6	2505:20	orders 2361:24
2398:1,4	2435:5,9,15,17	2485:3,22,23	opioid-induced	2361:24
2399:11,15	2435:21,23,24	2485:26	2433:2	2514:10
2400:7,14	2435:26	2486:1,6,7,13	2493:16	organization
2401:5,7,8	2436:1,3,3,5,8	2486:14,21	opioid-like	2453:20,22
2402:11	2436:11,15,17	2487:16,20,21	2378:11	2458:25
2403:21	2436:19,21	2487:21	opioid-related	2488:9
2404:23	2437:5,10	2488:4,14	2446:3	organizations
2405:25	2438:1,3,7,14	2490:3	opium 2423:26	2399:24
2406:2,8,10,12	2438:24,24	2491:23	2424:8	2443:6,7
2406:14,18,24	2439:4,10,11	2492:7,8,13,15	opportunity	original 2389:4
2407:11	2439:12,15,18	2492:21	2360:16	2477:13
2408:6,14,19	2439:21,26	2493:5,9,17,22	2373:9	originally
2408:21	2440:6,8,13,15	2494:3,6,7,13	2457:13	2426:19
2409:1,11,22	2440:17,26	2497:19,24	opposed	Orry 1:5
2410:10,12,13	2441:7,13,13	2498:11,21,24	2374:22	ORTHO 1:10
2410:14	2442:2,21	2499:3,11,15	2404:7	Ortho-McNeil
2411:14,25	2444:14	2499:22,26	opposite 2429:1	4:3
2412:4,8	2445:21,25	2500:1,22	2499:18	OUD 2406:23
2413:5 2414:1	2446:8,13,19	2501:1,13,25	option 2492:16	2407:10
2414:20	2446:22	2502:6,15,21	2492:18	2408:21,26
2416:14,15,16	2447:10	2502:24	options 2492:25	2410:14,19
2416:20	2448:8,12	2504:23,24,26	2503:14	2411:13
2417:5	2449:13,17	2505:8 2506:4	orally 2440:2,2	2413:18,26
2418:11,12,26	2453:1,1,6,10	2506:6,11,24	2440:3,3	2425:16,25
2419:3,13,17	2453:12	2507:12	Orange 1:2,5	2427:16
2419:21	2454:5,9,21	2508:3,14,16	2334:12	2431:15
2420:4 2423:4	2456:7	2508:25	order 5:19	2433:13,19
2423:21,22,24	2458:11,15,23	2509:1,2	2332:7 2336:9	2434:16
			l	l



				rage 30
2435:5,17	2358:11,22	2383:12,18	nod 2424:12	2433:1,4,8
2436:11	2359:1 2365:1	2385:12,18	pad 2434:12 PADRAIC 4:14	2435:1,4,8 2435:14,16,21
2438:25	2366:6 2375:9	2386:8	page 2333:17	2439:5
2439:23	2377:14		2334:1	2439.3 2440:21
2439.23	2378:7	overdose-rela 2437:7	2341:17	-
				2441:1,8,14,19
2449:18	2383:17	overlap 2395:24	2381:6	2441:23
2452:2,2,11,11	2384:9,18	overprescribing 2414:19	2391:18,23	2443:7 2448:7
2454:7	2389:21	-	2392:6,10	2449:13,24
2469:10	2391:7	2418:26	2455:8	2451:11,14
2472:22	2392:16	2419:4	pages 2333:17	2452:12
2473:23	2408:11	2423:13	2330:9	2453:1,5
2474:16	2409:9,12,13	2523:4	paid 2398:17	2454:4,4,10,22
2493:3	2411:19	overruled	pain 2395:24	2456:7,20
2509:13,18,18	2419:14	2353:7	2396:24	2457:17
2513:16	2436:9 2438:2	2355:22	2397:2	2458:12
2514:25	2438:4,7	2356:8 2360:7	2400:19	2460:6,12,17
outcome	2445:26	2376:11	2401:1,3,7,9	2460:21,25
2453:24	2446:2,3,9,15	2377:21	2401:10,11,15	2461:6,25
outcomes	2499:25	2379:4	2401:17,18,20	2462:19
2488:11	2500:3,6,12,22	2380:12	2404:2	2465:7
outline 2422:14	2500:25	2384:12	2406:13	2469:20
outlying 2342:6	2508:19	2388:3,19	2407:12,14,18	2470:20
outpatients	2509:11	2402:6 2403:2	2407:20,22,25	2474:26
2459:12	2510:13,14	2446:11	2409:17	2475:14,25,25
outside 2375:23	overdosed	2471:4	2410:11,12	2478:14,18,20
2399:1,9	2365:6,18	2477:26	2412:18,19	2478:21
2400:2,24	2377:7,10	2490:13	2413:1,5,7,8	2482:20,22
2412:25	2378:23	2513:21	2413:10,15,19	2483:12,13
2413:24	2379:15	2515:12	2413:20	2485:5,7,8,8
2414:17	2386:3	2522:12,25	2414:20	2485:10,11,14
2433:26	overdoses	oversight	2416:15,20	2485:14,15,16
2464:9 2517:7	2342:1,4,9,10	2397:10	2417:2,4	2485:16,19,19
2518:16	2342:20	oxymorphone	2418:20,22,23	2485:22
outward	2343:5	2471:25	2419:1,2,13,18	2486:1,2,5,5
2401:18	2344:13	2472:1	2419:22	2486:13,15,17
outwardly	2349:21	O'MELVENY	2424:26	2487:16,23
2478:24	2353:19,22	4:5	2425:2	2488:4,9,14,20
outweighed	2354:2 2358:2	O0O 2330:4	2426:18	2489:4,8,9,17
2506:4 2507:5	2359:9 2365:3		2427:21,24,25	2490:16
overcome	2365:14	P	2428:2,20	2491:23
2462:3	2374:18	P 1:5	2429:2,11,13	2492:9,13,16
overdose 2343:7	2378:26	PA 2357:6,8,10	2429:17,19,26	2492:20
2343:14,24	2379:8	packaging	2432:10,11,16	2493:5,18,19
2344:3,23	2382:11	2404:21	2432:18,20,21	2493:19,23
	•	•	•	



				- 490 00
2494:4,5,14	2340:17,24	2523:3	2365:15	2452:12
2497:20,26	2341:1,3,6,8	particular	2378:3	2453:1 2454:4
2498:11,13,15	2341:14,25	2368:24	2401:16,18,19	2454:4 2458:9
2498:21,22	2342:8,13,19	2442:26	2409:8	2459:2 2461:2
2499:3,12,16	2342:25	2452:10	2418:23	2461:16,25
2499:23,26	2343:4,6,13	2466:17,20,26	2441:14	2462:6 2465:6
2500:12	2344:2,13,26	2467:21	2447:23	2469:7
2501:1,14,25	2345:6,9	2471:20	2448:7 2457:3	2470:19
2502:1	2349:8	2474:19	2457:6 2462:4	2472:21
2503:11,13	paramedics	2477:24	2476:21	2473:4,22
2505:9,20	2341:3 2375:5	2483:11,21,22	2478:14,23	2475:12
2506:9,10,12	2375:7	2489:5	2487:3,5	2476:5
2506:14,14,23	paraphernalia	2494:25	2505:4 2507:1	2478:18
2507:2,13,13	2342:17	2502:19	2509:7,13	2482:22
2508:2,5,10,15	2344:9 2350:2	2518:3,9	2520:19	2486:14,23
2508:20,21,26	2350:17	particularly	2521:1	2493:6
2509:3,5,10	2351:1,3	2488:5	patients	2499:26
2513:1,1	2354:5,8,19	2503:20	2396:26	2502:18
2514:14	2356:10	parties 2330:19	2397:6,21	2503:25,26
2518:1 2520:9	parent 2433:25	2330:26	2401:7,11,12	2505:7,9,21
2520:13,18,19	paring 2336:12	2335:19	2405:17,24	2506:10,23
2520:21,23	part 2333:10	2336:2 2392:2	2406:22,25	2507:4,11,16
2521:2	2335:6	2477:23	2407:1,4,7,10	2507:23,24
pale 2343:18	2336:26	partly 2352:3	2407:17,20,25	2508:1,2
2435:3	2341:25	partnership	2408:1,23	2509:17,20
pandemic	2345:16	2399:23	2409:3,5	2511:17
2375:17,21,25	2351:20	parts 2362:12	2410:5,22	2516:3
2376:8,18	2358:3,16	2362:13	2411:15	2517:22
panel 2491:3	2370:21	2363:17	2412:4 2413:4	2519:22
papers 2419:12	2395:5,13,14	2493:19	2413:9,10	2520:15
paperwork	2395:14	party 2330:21	2414:13	patient's 2473:7
2361:25	2397:25	2331:8	2415:3,9,22	patient-center
paradigm	2398:19,21	2333:21	2416:18,19,25	2417:1
2419:3 2440:5	2417:26	passed 2396:6	2417:2,4,16,17	patient-facing
2441:10,20	2419:26	2396:14	2417:19,26	2456:23,26
2447:21	2427:23	pathology	2418:4,7,10,20	2457:24
2461:19	2448:12,23	2394:11	2419:2,21	2499:2
2520:13	2456:6	pathways	2426:20	patrol 2345:22
paradoxically	2459:21	2428:8,19	2427:14	2345:25
2473:7	2461:23	patient 2341:5	2435:16,19	2346:2,3,7,9
paragraphs	2464:8	2342:7 2343:8	2440:15,23	2346:14,26
2368:25	2505:25	2343:22	2441:17	2365:22
paramedic	2514:16,24	2344:5	2445:12	PAUL 2:4
2340:9,10,14	2517:17	2358:25	2449:24	pausing 2481:23
L				



				Tage 40
2482:1	2413:17	percipient	personal 2350:9	2442:20
PD 2384:1,3	2427:7 2429:7	2355:8	2381:4	2443:3,9
pdagastino@r	2431:12,15,18	period 2342:24	2402:16,22	2444:3
2:6	2432:9,11,15	2343:11	2415:5 2435:1	2453:21
PD's 2384:21	2432:17	2416:20	2483:1	2459:26
peace 2338:25	2432:17	2426:22,23	2519:18	2461:21
2350:10,18	2435:23,25	2433:11	2520:4,5	Pharmaceutic
2351:5,11	2436:23	2446:4	2521:6,15	1:10,11,12,12
2353:17	2439:21,25	2460:23,25	2522:2	1:13 4:3,3,4,4
2354:4,23	2441:1 2442:2	2482:13	personally	4:13 5:10
2355:19	2442:17	2506:12	2350:14	pharmacologic
2356:1,14,17	2449:17	periods 2432:22	2351:12	2502:10
peer 2503:21	2455:17	perioperative	2353:12	2509:21
peers 2490:5	2463:13	2517:19	2354:1 2355:6	pharmacologi
2503:23	2464:3,25	perioperatively	2414:6	2502:6
peer-reviewed	2478:16,16,18	2517:22	persons 2414:17	pharmacy
2403:9	2478:21	Perri 2448:13	person's 2384:8	2424:14
Pendell 2:9	2482:19,21	2448:18	2384:18	2482:18
2331:9,14,16	2483:13	2449:3	perspective	pharma-funded
2331:20,26	2486:21	persist 2494:7	2336:2 2359:2	2404:7
2331:20,20	2493:8,13	persistent	2389:20	Phase 2358:5,7
2390:18	2499:3	2439:6,7	2390:2,4	2358:8,9,12,13
2391:13,14,20	2511:20	2498:13	2448:3	2358:18,19,20
pending	People's	persisting	2515:21	2359:22
2337:25	2333:14	2485:9	pertain 2349:4	2363:5,7,10
2393:5 2495:4	2334:11	person 2344:8	2351:21	2367:6 2369:1
2496:26	2390:2	2358:26	pertinent	2374:13,22,22
people 1:4	2523:15	2359:15	2415:17	2384:23
2333:21	percent 2346:12	2366:17	PETER 1:20	phenomena
2334:13	2348:11	2377:17,25	pforan@hues	2512:8,9
2335:15,17,23	2374:8	2378:23	4:19	phenomenon
2336:5,16,24	2408:23	2385:23	pharma 1:9,9	2415:20
2337:7,10,10	2418:19	2435:5 2447:6	1:14,15 5:3,3	2426:11
2364:11	2439:5	2447:7,9,19	5:11,11 2491:6	2493:15
2370:7,8	2449:24,25	2448:2,4	2492:1	2506:10
2374:15	2450:12	2473:12,15,17	Pharmaceutica	phone 2409:3
2377:7	2451:17,17,18	2476:2	4:4	phrase 2471:11
2382:18	2451:24	2477:13,19	pharmaceutical	physical 2462:2
2383:16	2452:1,6,8	2478:8,12	2399:10,14,23	2492:22
2390:23	2453:4,8,11,16	2479:9	2400:6,13	2511:15
2394:25	2454:6	2480:11	2402:11,24	2512:5
2405:8,18,20	percentage	2481:9 2482:5	2403:1,5,8	physically
2406:5	2374:3,7	2482:15	2404:21	2379:11
2411:17	2435:17	2486:4	2416:1	2408:18
<u> </u>				



				Tage 41
2417:5	pills 2344:8	2352:8 2357:1	2507:10	pornography
2506:24	2352:12	2357:23	points 2437:24	2405:22
physician	2388:9,12,13	2359:16,24	2441:3	Porter 4:22
2424:26	2388:17,23	2360:1 2367:3	police 2338:22	2453:8,17
2434:16	2482:19	2367:9,13,15	2338:24	2458:26
2439:23	pilot 2358:6	2367:18	2339:3,16,19	2459:4
2518:20,26	pipes 2344:9	2370:5	2345:3,11,14	portion 2340:18
2521:1	place 2352:14	2371:23	2345:16,18	2340:20
physicians	2356:19	2373:12	2346:21	2341:11
2400:21	2447:26	2374:23,26	2349:17	2391:16
2401:2,10	placebo-contr	2383:7,23	2352:24	2490:11
2403:11,26	2411:7	2385:11	2354:21	portray 2443:17
2404:8	placed 2357:25	2387:7 2388:3	2357:3,20	position
2409:22	places 2351:2	2393:2,3,14	2363:23	2338:23
2415:22	2457:8	2431:7 2466:1	2364:13,22	2339:24
2417:3 2423:5	plainclothes	2475:21	2365:21	2345:1,13,15
2443:15	2348:17	2480:15	2366:5,16	2349:15
2447:4 2468:2	plaintiff 1:7 6:5	2499:20	2368:10,18,19	2362:18
2488:19	2338:8	2513:6	2369:2,7,12,14	2369:11,13
2490:4	2393:11	2521:26	2369:20	2393:21
2503:22	2497:5,7	2523:16	2370:12	2409:21
2520:14	PLAINTIFFS	pleasure	2371:3,4	2412:17
2522:7	2:2	2427:21,24,25	2372:5,6	2466:10
physiologic	Plaintiff's	2428:1,6,18	2375:13	2516:13
2426:4 2432:5	2455:23	2429:10	2380:8,17	positions 2335:3
2435:15	plaintiff-speci	pleasure-pain	2381:22	2349:11
2504:12,18,20	2522:21	2428:14	2389:19	2412:16
2505:4,7,23	Plan 2508:8	2432:26	police's 2369:26	positive 2386:4
Physiological	plans 2407:12	2435:13	policies 2349:3	possible
2511:7	plateaued	PMK 2381:3	2357:21	2378:25
physiologically	2446:4	pockets 2356:20	2361:23	possibly
2405:24	plausible 2438:8	point 2336:11	policing 2347:9	2363:18
2406:11	played 2366:11	2337:1 2366:6	policy 2361:26	2484:3
2461:1 2505:8	Plaza 2:5 3:17	2367:1 2387:2	2443:8	potencies
picked 2454:19	PLC 5:10	2388:6 2391:1	poppy 2423:26	2446:20
Picking 2334:10	Pleasant 2:13	2406:12	2424:3,8	potential
piece 2361:25	please 2337:14	2409:21	population	2335:11
2485:25	2337:15,16	2437:23	2379:19	2493:3
pile 2508:23	2338:3	2441:6	2380:4,5	2500:22
pill 2352:11,13	2340:26	2453:13	2417:4 2436:6	2506:4 2507:5
2353:2	2341:16	2466:25	2436:7,12	2514:26
2354:10	2342:12	2469:22	2453:5	potentially
2388:24	2348:21	2488:1 2503:6	2459:10	2461:6
2424:22	2350:23	2503:24	2476:5	2464:13
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>I</u>	l



				1 age 42
powder 2352:13	2474:22	2519:22	2405:19,25	2467:16
2352:13	prefers 2495:10	prescriber	2405:19,23	2468:8
power 2520:21	preparation	2478:23	2408:21	2482:19
Power DMS	2413:23	prescribers	2410:18	2500:12
2361:19,20	preparations	2415:8	2413:5	presence
PowerPoint	2336:10	2423:17	2418:11,12,22	2504:21
2360:22,24,26	prepare 2394:1	2457:3,6	2419:6 2423:3	present 2465:16
2361:11	prepare 2574.1	2461:19	2424:5,11,12	2509:19
PowerPoints	2422:24	2472:4,8	2424:13,19	2514:19
2361:23	prescreening	2473:3	2425:6	2515:2
practice	2474:16	2498:20	2434:12,17,21	presentation
2394:17,20,22	prescribe	prescribing	2434:25	2363:18
2398:12,14,16	2404:23	2342:16	2435:22	presented
2405:14,16	2410:10,12,13	2395:23	2436:3,5,8,10	2378:3 2467:4
2406:21	2410:15	2401:4,11	2437:2,5,13	preserve
2408:22	2416:14,14	2403:11	2438:1,23,24	2428:16
2411:2,3,10	2508:25	2408:13	2439:1,10,11	PRESIDING
2414:18	2509:2	2416:4,6	2439:14,26	1:20
2417:9,18,24	prescribed	2423:5 2438:4	2440:6	press 2414:12
2417:25	2341:23	2438:15	2442:21	2443:2
2418:3	2408:19	2441:4,7,7,10	2444:13	pressure
2507:23	2409:11,14,17	2445:15	2445:25	2511:17
practiced	2409:18	2447:17	2446:3,7,13	pretty 2337:18
2399:25	2419:21	2448:1 2468:1	2447:1	2361:25
practices	2424:18,25	2473:5	2452:26	2487:2
2403:11	2425:2,3	2514:19	2458:10	prevalence
2423:5	2426:8	2515:1	2463:14	2354:24
practicing	2427:14	2517:12,12	2464:4,26	2356:13,16
2400:21	2435:23	2518:20,26	2473:18,19	previous 2334:5
2410:21	2436:1	2519:18	2474:2,8	2443:26
2489:11	2439:23	2520:1 2521:1	2475:23	2475:18
practitioner	2440:1,1	2521:3,18	2476:6,7,21	previously
2492:17	2447:10,11	2522:6	2477:20	2332:11
precedes 2438:7	2449:13,17,24	prescription	2478:9	2333:9
precisely	2450:14	2341:20	2479:10	2345:10
2382:25	2453:1,12	2343:1 2344:7	2480:12	2369:9
2391:15	2454:21	2377:18,26	2481:10	2390:19,21
2468:17	2456:7	2379:1,9	2482:6	2426:1
precursor	2462:19	2382:9 2387:5	2513:11,17,23	2506:19
2424:8	2470:19	2387:23	2514:13,17,25	2512:24
predict 2434:21	2473:12,15	2388:9,13,17	prescriptions	primarily
2473:26	2476:3,23	2388:25	2432:10	2413:11
2474:9	2477:13	2398:4	2444:11,16,18	2441:25
predicting	2508:3	2403:21	2447:4,15,19	primary
	1	1	l	1



				Page 43
0244.10	2205.22	2504.22	2206.10	2500.26
2344:12	2395:22	2504:23	2386:19	2500:26
2346:2,4	2404:5 2413:9	products 2509:4	2393:25	2501:13
2376:6 2400:9	2427:9	professional	programs 2375:3	2503:17
2412:26,26	2433:15	2406:1		2510:22
2461:7	2460:22	2412:10	2438:16,18,18	prompted 2498:19
printout 2391:6	problematic 2346:8	2441:26	progressing	
prior 2346:18		2443:11	2436:3	pronouncing 2475:5
2379:3	problems	2488:8 2489:7	progression	
2402:14	2347:10	2514:16,24	2461:5	propagated 2416:2
2414:24	2350:23	professor	prolific 2350:26	_
2415:14	2363:3	2393:22	prolonged	properly
2420:10,17	2374:17	proffer 2370:9	2412:1	2332:20
2440:8	2380:18	2371:14	promote	2422:8
2442:16	2408:2 2418:1	proffered	2443:14	2458:12
2445:5	2493:13	2331:6	2502:21	properties
2448:24	procedural	2367:10	promoted	2432:2
2476:12,13,14	2330:11	2369:4	2443:11	proposal 2331:4
2476:15	2335:26	proffering	promoting	proposition
2482:11	procedures	2370:8	2438:3 2490:2	2442:26
2514:11	2341:4 2349:4	program 2349:5	promotion	2499:15
2518:7	2357:21	2349:7	2399:11	2505:3
prioritize	2361:23	2356:26	2400:6,14	2507:20
2407:14	proceed 2347:3	2357:2,3,4,12	2402:2	propositions
priority 2397:23	2352:8	2357:13,14,17	2438:14	2485:6
private 2398:16	2367:18	2357:18,21,24	2495:15,19	protect 2442:2
pro 1:26,26	2371:23	2357:25	2497:4	protocol
2330:8,19	2383:7	2358:3,7,16,21	promotional	2416:11,23
proactive	proceedings	2359:3,11	2402:10,16,19	2417:3
2346:7 2347:8	1:19,21 2330:6	2360:23	2443:13	2506:18,22
2358:13	2523:21	2361:13,19,21	2448:14	2507:3,6
probably	2330:12	2362:5,23	2449:4	protracted
2381:12	process 2405:20	2363:24	2454:13	2435:12
2408:23	2421:21	2364:14	2462:20,23	prove 2362:22
2418:19	2432:13,15	2365:9 2366:1	2463:3,6	proven 2434:23
2426:23	2486:20	2366:8,11,15	2471:6,8,12,13	proves 2363:23
2460:13	2504:20	2366:18,19,22	2471:20	provide 2398:19
problem	processes	2366:24	2472:15,21	2398:22
2331:17	2427:24,24	2369:2,9	2477:11	2461:1
2337:23	produced	2373:19	2479:7,7,16	provided
2363:8,16,19	2420:25	2374:5 2375:1	2480:3,10	2453:22
2364:9	2422:19	2375:1,18	2482:4	2490:20
2370:25,26	product	2376:2	2494:11,12,24	2509:24
2374:15	2495:20	2381:21,23	2495:21,26	2516:1
2380:8,17	production	2383:5	2497:8	providers
I				



				Tage 11
2415:4	publications	purported	2494:17	2501:20
2445:12	2403:9	2422:4 2456:6	P-CA-000921	P-CA-625
2462:8	2419:26	purporting	7:3,10 2392:18	2501:20
2502:17	2420:2,6,11,15	2467:5	P-CA-001087	P-0921 2390:21
2507:4	2443:8 2517:6	2468:12	2367:3,17	P-1367 2455:22
2508:22	2517:9	2497:1	P-CA-001367	p.m 2430:15
2516:3	public-facing	purports	7:4	2523:21
provides 2364:7	2456:24	2333:15	P-CA-001687	P.O.S.T 2361:2
providing	publish 2415:10	purpose	2462:15	
2443:21	2415:11	2360:26	P-CA-001737	Q
proving 2369:7	2518:16	2361:1	2359:17	quadrupling
provision	published	2362:15,21	2362:8	2441:11
2370:13	2414:10,11	2369:3	P-CA-0921	qualifications
provocative	2419:7,10,24	purposes	2392:15	2394:6
2414:16	2420:3	2339:18	P-CA-1303	2416:10
pseudoaddicti	2442:24	2369:6	2508:7,9	2425:10
2467:7 2469:8	2451:12,13,14	2432:12	P-CA-1367	2442:16
2469:9,12,20	2470:7	pursuant	2455:17	2451:5
2470:3,5,6,13	2475:25	2330:26	2456:2	qualitative
2470:15,17,19	2488:7,20	2332:14	2462:13	2445:16
2470:23	2500:15,17	2391:11	P-CA-1391	2516:2
2471:10,14,19	2517:10,18,21	2421:12	2478:3	2518:22
2472:12,15,22	2517:24	pursue 2412:11	2483:14	quality 2450:4
2472:26	2518:12	purview	2498:3	2459:21,23
psychiatrist	publishing	2417:23	2501:20	quarantine
2394:23	2415:14	push 2336:15,22	2511:5,23	2407:6
psychiatry	PubMed	pushed 2441:14	P-CA-1693	question
2393:22	2419:12	put 2343:10	2498:3	2333:13,26
2394:12	pull 2333:23	2353:15	P-CA-251	2341:18
2395:3	2359:14,16	2362:24	2471:24	2351:20
2396:10,11,13	2366:26	2370:22	2472:10	2353:9 2355:7
2396:17	2367:3 2394:4	2381:5	2478:4	2355:11,14,15
2397:16,18	2436:26	2428:20	2501:20	2355:24
2400:24	2449:2 2455:3	2437:18	2511:5	2364:23
2413:1,12	2487:8	2443:8 2448:3	P-CA-399	2371:21
2417:18	2494:17	2457:25	2471:24	2372:15,21,22
psychological	pulling 2367:1	2474:17	2472:10	2372:25
2407:23	pupil 2343:18	2489:9	2478:4 2511:5	2376:13
psychotherapy	pupillary	putting 2362:26	2511:24	2377:23
2492:23	2343:16	2497:13,16	P-CA-401	2381:7,11
public 2363:11	pupils 2343:16	2502:18	2501:20	2382:23
2438:17,17,18	PURDUE 1:9,9	P-CA-000251	P-CA-421	2383:9 2389:3
publication	1:9	2462:15	2495:2	2399:6 2402:1
2421:9	purely 2424:7	P-CA-000421	P-CA-579	2410:3,8



				Page 43
2442.11	2201.4.2202.7	2454.5.22	2225.16	
2442:11	2391:4 2392:7 2510:26	2454:5,22 2456:8	2335:16	received 2333:7 2340:14
2443:24,25,26 2458:17	2510:26	2458:25	reading 2372:3 2423:8	2342:12
2465:13,16,24	2512.13	2462:19	2423.8	2365:24
			2515:26	2370:13
2466:17,20,26	quickly 2427:4 2427:12	2463:12,24 2464:24		2392:18
2467:9,12			ready 2334:13 2337:2,7	
2468:4,4,9,11	quite 2507:1	2467:6,10,15	/	2400:11
2469:11	quote 2358:15	2468:6,15,19 2494:3	real 2336:13	2417:20
2470:9	2484:2 2503:8	,	2445:8	2432:10
2474:13	quotes 2484:6	rarely 2458:11	2458:26	2455:24
2479:25	quote-unquote	2458:24	really 2334:25	2459:3 2460:5
2481:20	2401:1,5	rareness 2468:6	2335:4,7,10	2460:7
2495:6 2504:9	2473:11	rate 2374:16	2392:5	2476:25
2509:15	2478:12	2427:7	2402:20	2490:17
2518:19	2482:17	2447:14	2406:3	2520:8
2519:25	2508:26	2454:9	2409:13,19	receiving
2521:9,20,23	2520:20	rates 2436:11	2411:26	2402:10,23
2521:25	R	2437:2,10	2414:16	2404:9
questioning		2450:11,12	2417:24	2459:12
2353:24	R 4:6	2451:10,16,26	2443:22	2482:24
questions	Rackauckas 1:6	2452:11,26	2460:19	2488:22
2341:13,14	radar 2336:6	2453:4	2461:18	2489:23
2349:7 2352:7	raise 2332:18	2454:14	2475:9	2490:23
2360:9	2337:15,16	2514:18,21	reason 2389:4	2491:6 2500:1
2367:14	2393:3	2515:1	2401:3 2425:5	2500:4
2376:23	2411:14	ratio 2499:24	2461:7,20	receptor
2385:5,8	raised 2336:5	RDR 1:26	2479:19	2423:23,23
2386:12	2433:26	2330:19	2494:5 2496:1	2502:7,8
2387:8 2389:5	2467:19	reach 2422:8	2501:5 2510:4	2509:26
2389:7,9,12,15	2496:15	2462:20	reasons 2461:25	recess 2390:15
2389:26	2512:24	2469:26	reassert 2471:1	2484:17
2412:14	raising 2392:6	2515:16	reasserts 2432:7	recessed
2483:8 2484:6	ramifications	2518:5,24	2432:21	2430:15
2495:4 2496:7	2493:4	2519:25	reassurance	recipient 2400:9
2496:24,26	range 2451:17	2521:15	2461:18	2423:10
2512:19,26	2451:20,21,22	2522:3,8	reassured	2445:2
2513:4,6,9	2452:5,7	reached	2421:14	2503:22
2514:4	2453:15	2521:21	2461:21	2519:19
question-and	rare 2367:12,12	reaching	recall 2403:16	2520:4,6
2474:25	2411:18	2422:25	receive 2342:4,8	recipient's
question-by-q	2419:21	read 2335:9	2349:15,19,22	2482:20
2360:8	2449:14	2372:2,14,23	2350:1	reciprocal
quick 2334:4	2453:10,20,24	2415:2	2368:12	2330:21
2388:6 2391:1	2453:26,26	readdress	2432:20	recognition



				Page 40
22.42.5	2406 10 16	2222 10	2255 (2256 5	2442.10
2342:5	2496:10,16	2333:19	2355:6 2356:5	2442:19
2349:20	2498:2	2343:19	2364:5	2443:6 2476:9
2350:4 2358:11,25	2500:11	2344:17 2348:2 2360:4	2369:20 2383:26	2500:21
2412:22	2501:19 2503:1	2360:7	2415:13	relationships 2490:7
2440:12,20	records 2361:15	2361:26	2419:13	release 2428:6
2506:23	2362:18	2367:11	2496:4	2428:18
recognize	recovery 2412:9	2375:11	regardless	relevance
2360:19	RECROSS 6:3	2383:17	2330:21	2363:4,15,25
2367:24	recurring	2392:8	region 2438:3,4	2367:6
2377:13	2422:11	2408:13	regular 2413:6	2370:11
2439:7 2455:9	red 2476:25	2454:24	2448:9	2371:16
2494:18	redefine 2513:6	2478:13	regularly	2376:9
recognized	REDIRECT 6:3	2480:20	2516:13	2382:14
2364:26	2389:17	2509:23	regulatory	2464:5 2496:9
2365:1	redress 2403:24	referring	2415:24	2508:9
2417:25	reduction	2331:18	relapse 2429:22	relevant 2363:7
recollection	2347:14,15	2344:14	relate 2484:6	2363:18
2331:12,24	reeducate	2411:5 2426:4	related 2347:23	2364:9
2391:24	2404:8 2418:2	2451:8	2348:18	2371:12
recommendat	reengage 2412:9	2462:12	2379:1,9	2374:12,19,21
2470:22	2412:9,10	2466:26	2395:19	2382:16,17
2491:25	2432:8	2480:25	2396:1 2398:7	2387:2,3,5
recommended	reestablish	2481:17	2398:22	2422:7 2497:5
2470:18	2412:7	2482:16	2399:2,5	reliable 2434:15
2488:13	Reexamination	refers 2375:12	2405:11,13	2435:19
recommending	2389:14	2418:25	2406:23	2450:2 2459:5
2491:18	refer 2331:1	2498:17	2413:26	2473:26
reconcile	2339:19	reflect 2499:21	2426:11	2485:23
2491:22	2358:6	2503:1	2443:26	2486:12
record 2330:10	reference	reflected 2479:3	2446:1	relied 2391:22
2334:6 2338:4	2422:2 2478:3	reflecting	2449:10	2419:7 2421:3
2362:10	2480:17	2350:14	2463:2	2452:9
2390:17	2488:25	2498:3	2477:12	2494:20,23
2391:3,10	referenced	reflects 2501:19	2479:8 2492:6	2517:2
2393:15	2412:13	refresher	2498:8	relief 2426:18
2431:4	2425:23	2358:1	2501:13,24	2456:22
2461:12	2453:9	refugees	2506:19	2457:17
2462:12	2475:18	2416:19	2519:18	2460:17
2463:1	2512:11	refusing	relating 2495:7	2486:8,15
2471:24	references	2416:18	relation 2416:8	2499:1
2483:8	2471:14	regarding	relationship	2503:11,13
2484:19	2511:4,23	2350:7	2399:14	relieve 2508:13
2494:10	referred	2353:21	2438:2	relieves 2432:20
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>



				Page 47
2440:14	2520:26	2456.4.5	rereviewed	residents
rely 2394:5	repetition	2456:4,5 2477:17	2474:21	2395:15,18
2422:23	2388:3	2482:5	research	2397:8 2398:7
2474:18	repetitive	2482:3	2397:26	2403:26
2489:11	2513:4	2487:15	2397.20	residue 2344:10
2495:24			2399:22	resource 2347:9
2518:23	rephrase 2355:15	representation 2361:1	2402:24	2357:15
relying 2518:13			2414:23,26	2449:22
remain 2332:11	replicate 2388:13	representatives 2455:14	2414.25,26	
2428:14		2472:2		resources 2363:9
	replicated 2500:8		2420:11,15,17	
2431:5		represented	2422:21	respect 2335:14
2460:13	report 2334:12	2445:8	2423:2	2369:15
remained	2384:5 2403:6	2479:15	2442:18,26	2374:17
2418:16	2421:4	2487:11	2444:22	2386:19
remains	2422:16,25	2490:5	2446:25	2391:14
2435:14	2436:2	representing	2448:23	2444:13
remedy 2469:21	2438:13	2488:8	2463:21	2476:1
remember	2460:3	represents	2464:9,21,26	2490:11
2400:22	2469:15,16,19	2369:11	2465:3,14,17	2496:25
2404:16	2469:25	2441:9	2465:22,23,24	2522:21
2409:15	2470:7	2452:24	2466:6,13,16	respirations
2456:12	2481:19	2476:1	2466:22	2343:20
2520:17	2486:23	2489:19	2473:23	2365:16
remembered	2487:14	2503:20	2492:3	respiratory
2429:12	2495:24	reps 2456:21	2513:10,14	2427:5,12
remembering	2497:18	2457:2,5	2514:16	2510:11,11
2469:14	2517:3,7	2472:7	2516:2,12,21	respond
remind 2431:5	2518:11,18	2498:20	2518:16	2342:19
remiss 2520:22	2519:3	reputable	researched	2343:17
REMOTE 1:21	reported	2453:13	2466:17,19	2347:26
2:1	2458:19	2500:19	2516:7	2358:22
remotely 2330:7	reporter 1:26,26	request 2335:15	researching	2359:26
rep 2498:23	2430:14	requesting	2419:9	2365:3
repeat 2353:9	2330:8,19	2421:21	reservation	2369:15
2355:24	Reporter's 1:21	required	2421:10	2370:3 2375:9
2364:23	2330:1,9	2340:16	reserve 2496:23	responded
2377:23	reports 2437:23	2384:4,7,16,19	reserved 2495:4	2370:25
2379:6	2519:3	2401:16	2496:12	2385:17
2380:14	represent	requirement	reserving	responder
2384:14	2368:18	2356:19	2496:7,26	2339:25
repeated 2429:9	2377:4	requires 2484:3	residency	responders
2432:22	2385:14	2503:3	2394:13	2358:23
repeatedly	2428:22	2506:25,26,26	2417:21	responding
2370:22	2450:12	2507:1 2509:9	2520:12	2341:26
L				



				Page 40
22.42.25	2502.25	2400 12	2470 21	-:-1 2424 7
2342:25	2503:25	2499:13	2470:21	risks 2434:7
2346:4	2509:6	2505:16	2475:1,4,5	2435:22
2348:14	2510:13	2507:7 2515:9	2478:26	2487:12
response 2342:4	resulted	2516:18,20,25	2479:1 2487:9	2506:3 2507:5
2343:6,16	2330:14	reviewed	2490:25,26	2507:8
2344:12	2443:12	2421:18	2491:4,5,8	2509:13,19,20
2354:3	resulting	2422:18	2496:7,23	2517:26
2362:26	2504:21	2448:17	2500:13,14	ROA 7:8
2363:2	results 2347:25	2456:11	2501:9	2330:13
2372:20	2450:6	2463:3 2470:4	2511:25	2332:8
2426:15	2451:21	2472:18	2520:23	2333:10,14,26
2504:4	resuming	2480:4	right-hand	2390:20
responsibilities	2336:3	2487:14	2476:19	2391:12
2348:22	retained	2516:16	2484:2	2392:2,17
2386:18	2415:11	2517:2	2489:21	road 2494:8
2397:3	2420:10,18	2518:10	rigorous	Robinson 2:3,3
responsibility	2442:17	reviewing	2469:24	2334:16,17,21
2401:4	2448:25	2422:10	Rise 2437:2,2	2334:22,24
responsible	retrospectively	2423:8	risk 2358:15	2392:7,20
2383:25	2434:19	2515:15	2408:10	Robinson's
2397:5,6	return 2336:14	2516:8	2433:18,20,24	2391:4
2401:2	2336:20	revisit 2371:21	2434:4,4,19,22	robust 2449:22
rest 2335:15	2460:6 2499:4	revisited	2434:26	role 2345:21
2336:16	returning	2371:13	2435:3,3,25	2347:12
2337:2	2336:1	revive 2365:5	2436:7 2439:2	2357:18
2346:25	reversal	reward 2428:7	2439:8,11	2365:26
2482:23	2374:16	2428:19	2447:26	2366:10
restate 2376:13	reversals 2374:6	RICE 2:8	2453:10	2396:8
2442:11	reverse 2383:1	right 2336:21	2454:3 2463:2	2397:12,14
2443:23	2404:8	2337:6,15,16	2463:12,23	2398:11,19
2521:25	reversible	2359:15	2464:23	2443:3
restated	2504:13	2379:13,20	2465:5 2473:7	2475:22
2443:23	2505:5,18	2382:2,9	2473:22	room 2337:11
restock 2368:2	2506:21	2384:1	2474:2,16,21	ROSS 3:11
restore 2428:16	2510:18,23	2386:23	2476:11,16,20	rotations
2429:13	2511:8	2388:25	2476:23,26	2340:21
2430:8 2432:3	Reversing	2390:16	2482:10,11,14	roughly 2336:7
restored 2429:5	2383:14	2392:13	2482:26	routine 2479:19
2430:5	review 2334:4	2393:3	2483:1	rubber 2354:17
result 2413:20	2421:18,24	2398:13	2492:26	ruining 2482:23
2433:4	2422:18	2451:24	2499:24	rules 2428:13
2434:16	2451:11	2456:15	2500:3,5,24	2523:14
2451:22,23	2454:12	2462:16	2509:11	ruling 2372:17
2461:5 2490:4	2481:5	2466:11	2513:26	rulings 2335:14



				1 490 13
run 2502:26	2480:3	2438:13	2392:11	2372:14
2503:10,13	saying 2346:6	2443:16,17	2476:13	2376:7,16
2514:9	2368:4 2409:6	2445:6 2465:5	2484:21	2377:9 2378:7
running	2409:12	2466:2	2520:19	2379:14
2416:17	2410:5 2433:3	2469:24	2521:10	2381:2 2387:8
	2447:23	2490:6	screening	2392:25
S	2462:2 2496:6	2516:24	2434:23	2402:15,18
safe 2354:16	2502:21	2519:7,9	2473:21,24,26	2407:8 2422:3
2397:10	says 2372:5	Sciences	2475:9	2441:17
2485:23	2451:17	2515:23	screenshot	2451:9
safely 2395:1	2459:16	scientific 2411:2	2391:6	2453:14,24
safer 2510:10	2496:22,22	2413:26	se 2426:5	2457:5 2463:1
safety 2356:18	2503:9	2420:16	SEAN 4:23	2465:8
2356:24	sbrody@omm	2448:20	sean.morris@	2468:18
2411:14	4:10	2449:10	4:24	2476:12
sale 2437:10	scaled 2375:22	2459:18,24	search 2348:19	2479:2,6
sales 2348:18	scared 2416:18	2460:16	2515:18	2480:9 2481:7
2437:4	scene 2344:6	2466:21	searches	2481:12
2455:14	2347:5 2377:8	2467:22	2356:19	2487:8
2456:21	2377:9	2470:5 2473:1	2515:25	2489:23
2457:2,5	2379:11,13	2473:24	second 2335:25	2490:22
2472:2,7	scenes 2490:1	2492:4,12	2337:19	2495:19
2498:20,23	Schedule 2424:5	2499:14	2353:12	2496:6
San 3:6,21	scheduling	2504:15	2405:5	2504:14
Sansome 3:21	2462:3	2505:3,16	2418:17	2507:22
Santa 1:5 3:2,3	Scholar 2419:12	2507:19	2429:9 2453:7	2519:6
2330:1	scholarly	2515:10,16	2455:8	seeing 2402:23
SARA 2:10	2395:14	2516:7,9,19,20	2459:14	2407:7 2409:3
SARFATI 4:16	2412:24	2516:26	2469:1,5	2409:5 2410:4
sat 2396:6,7,13	2423:7	2517:1,6	2498:16	2418:10
satisfy 2422:6	scholars 2397:8	2518:10,24	2503:8	2448:7
2481:25	SCHOLER	scope 2336:17	secondary	2519:21
saturation	4:22	2363:7,16,18	2376:6	seek 2406:7
2422:12	school 2340:3,5	2364:9	second-to-last	2496:1
save 2362:19	2340:9,10	2369:16	2507:10	seeking 2367:2
saving 2359:6	2393:23	2374:15,17	section 2368:15	2370:19,20
savings 2495:20	2398:15	2384:10	2456:3	2510:6
SAVITSKY	2399:17,18,18	2386:25	sections 2488:13	seeks 2367:8
3:16	2417:21	2388:1,2	see 2334:19,20	seen 2350:16,21
savvy 2337:18	2520:8	scouch@motl	2336:8	2351:4
saw 2365:20	schools 2351:1	2:15	2337:12,23	2379:24
2377:8	2399:4	screen 2334:20	2350:17	2385:18,22,25
2392:23	2438:16	2337:12	2351:3 2360:9	2422:7,13
2472:14	science 2416:3	2360:2	2366:6 2372:9	2449:4



				rage 30
2461:12	2382:3	2454:7	2452:25	2437:14
2461:12	2382:3 sequence 2438:6	severity 2511:19	2452:25	2437:14 2457:23
2472:17	2438:8	shake 2352:12	2453:3,4	2462:9
24/9:17	series 2505:19	shift 2346:17,18	2476:19	2476:18
2507:15	2514:4	2346:19,24	2476:19	2485:19
sees 2405:17	Serious 2505:15	2419:4 2440:4	2500:4,9,23	2488:6,17
selected 2457:18	serious 2303:13	2440:5	2500:4,9,23	2523:3
2483:12,17,21	2523:16	2440.3	2505:7,25	signs 2342:5
2497:23	service 2346:5	2447:22	2507:11	2343:13,14,18
2501:22	2347:4	2461:19	shown 2392:11	2343:23
selecting	2348:20	2520:13	2407:26	2344:2
2419:10	2375:23	shifted 2418:3	2474:4 2483:3	2349:20
2421:3	2375.25	2441:23	2483:16	2352:22
2515:15	2390:6	shifts 2447:21	shows 2364:3	2358:25
selections	2390.0	shooting	2453:2 2470:6	2377:13
2483:22	2412:24	2385:19	2482:10	2378:2,7
self 2425:14	services 1:24	short 2377:5	2499:24	2469:17
seni 2423:14 seminar	2348:20	2460:21	2513:23	similar 2335:18
2400:19	2397:21,22,23	2485:16,22	2518:2	2448:17
2400:19	2398:20,21	2486:2 2493:9	side 2361:6	2460:7 2463:1
semisynthetic	2507:1	2494:6	2368:15	2500:10
2424:2,6	serving 2396:25	shorter 2429:10	2426:17	2515:25
senior 2396:8	2439:19	2432:23	2428:1,2,5,18	Similarly
senior 2390:8 sense 2383:1	SESSION	shortest	2428:1,2,3,18	2472:6
2397:5	2330:2 2431:1	2416:16	2428:20	simple 2344:22
2409:12	set 2482:16	shorthand	2429:2,10,11	2356:21
2461:22	2494:6	2330:11	2429:13,17,19	2434:7
2508:16	sets 2330:15,20	shortly 2416:12	2432:19,26	simplest
sentence	2331:19,23	shortly 2410.12 short-acting	2432.19,20	2450:13
2371:26	2331:19,23	2508:25	2435:14	simply 2330:25
2372:2,9,26	2482:20	2508.25	2476:13,19	2335:13
2410:4 2504:8	setting 2502:13	show 2363:8,10	2484:2	2336:23
separate 2369:8	setting 2302.13 seven 2339:5	2374:16	2489:21,22	2360:6
2397:16	2350:9	2435:19	2493:7,10	2370:22,26
2405:7,10	2354:22	2458:11	2502:18,19	2396:4
2426:5,12	2448:8 2491:2	showed 2422:5	2502:16,19	2425:13
2420.3,12	severe 2407:18	2437:23	2511:14,23	2458:10
2475:11	2435:7,10	2465:5	Sierras 2407:5	2465:13
separated	2436:24	showing 2363:1	sign 2401:15	2469:21
2428:10	2440:9	2411:8	2520:18	2470:23
separately	2449:26	2419:16,20	significance	2478:10
2449:9	2450:26	2437:4,26	2447:13,16	2480:18
September	2451:4 2452:2	2438:26	2475:3	2487:4
2381:24	2452:2,11	2449:23	significant	2521:21
2301.21	2 102.2,11	2117.23	N.S.IIIICHIII	2021.21
	ı	1	1	1



				1 age 31
single 2296.2 9	2461.10.14	sold 2434:9	as salled	2363:2
single 2386:3,8 2391:23	2461:10,14 2467:4 2469:3	2436:17	so-called 2478:16	2377:16
2402:14	2469:3,4		2482:15	2398:3
2402.14	2470:6	solemnly 2337:24	sparingly	2404:20
2429.3	2470.0	2393:4	2440:9,10	2404.20
2459:3,11	2471:10	Solutions 1:13	speak 2335:25	2416:23,26
2481:26	2473.10	4:13	2353:1 2376:3	2417:4
singled 2425:26	2474.14,17	somebody	2380:23	2417.4
single-point	2475:13,13,18	2343:18	2382:2 2386:5	2420:24
2459:2	2477:16,17,22	2354:15	2387:17	2515:19
sir 2386:17	2477.10,17,22	2369:25	2404:24	specifics
2388:20	2483:11,16	2379:15	2483:4	2370:20
2390:9	2484:10,26	2416:22	speaker 2331:17	spectrum
situations	2487:8,11	2508:12	2337:18	2450:25
2353:26	2488:24	son 2409:16	speaking	speculation
2378:22	2489:15	sorry 2331:16	2332:24	2383:21
six 2339:5	2490:15	2334:24	2341:19	spell 2338:3
2354:3 2451:4	2491:16	2364:23	2353:23	2393:15
2485:12	2497:22	2377:22	2425:17	spend 2345:8
2491:2	2497.22 2499:7,20,21	2379:5	2423.17	2346:10
2521:17	2500:23	2380:13	speaks 2361:5	2348:10
2522:5	2500.23	2397:17	2370:17	SPIEGEL 3:5
size 2343:17	2505:11,14	2409:3	2461:18	spike 2446:2
SKIKOS 3:20	2508:5	2444:17,20	2507:10	spoke 2493:15
3:20	2510:25	2450:20	special 2348:21	spoon 2352:14
skill 2503:4	2510.23	2457:13	2361:24	spoons 2344:10
skills 2397:20	slides 2394:2,6	2465:12	2397:19	2354:11
skin 2343:18	2462:26	2484:25	specialize	spouse 2429:24
slide 2361:9	slightly 2432:19	2494:12	2418:3	squash 2509:4
2362:3,19,19	slowly 2394:26	2507:6	specialized	Stafford
2362:20	2406:16	2521:11,20	2396:5 2423:2	2391:22
2394:4	2445:26	sort 2481:20	2423:6 2503:4	2512:15
2395:26	small 2460:14	sorts 2330:24	specialty	2513:20
2436:26	2521:4	sought 2360:3	2396:12	stage 2336:16
2437:1,4,15,18	smayer@hues	2401:19	specific 2332:1	2521:23
2437:19	4:20	source 2444:24	2377:14	stakeholders
2449:2	snorting	2450:2 2459:5	2379:12,14	2415:3
2451:15	2439:20	2475:20	2421:4	2519:15
2452:21,24,25	societies 2442:1	sources 2366:23	2496:25	2522:17
2453:19	2443:12	2435:19	2503:2 2519:1	stamped 2389:1
2454:16,24	society 2403:20	2451:9	specifically	Stampfl 5:13
2455:26	2435:26	South 2:13 4:23	2331:21	6:8 2335:21
2456:3,4,17,22	2436:5 2489:7	Southern	2352:25	2385:10,10,13
2457:10	2489:9	2407:7	2357:18	2385:14
	-	-	-	-



				rage 32
2386:10,11	2444:8 2458:5	statements	2486:23	2429:11
Stan 2381:5	2461:15	2464:23	2504:26	2432:24
stand 2340:1	2485:6	2498:10	stopping 2435:8	strongly
2390:8	2490:18	2515:22	straightforwa	2488:13
standalone	2504:18	states 2401:1,10	2389:5	2491:22
2467:14	2523:10	2420:3	strategy	struggle
standard	started 2368:3	2437:11	2411:23	2396:20,23,26
2441:22	2409:2,5	2438:13	2443:17	2407:18
2458:25	2410:4	2440:7	2492:23	2408:23
2466:4	2418:10	2441:12	2502:17	2502:17
2516:23	2429:20	2442:22	street 3:6,12,21	struggled
standards	2441:7,8	2447:4 2448:2	4:17,23	2409:6 2410:6
2397:11	2445:25	2458:15	2341:19	2505:23
2415:25	starting 2426:3	2463:21	2350:17	struggling
2420:14	2432:18,19	2464:1	2356:22	2418:7 2504:2
Stanford	2444:19	station 2365:21	2358:10	student 2395:11
2393:23	2520:25	statistic 2387:16	2365:22	students 2395:6
2394:10,13,14	starts 2334:1	statistics	2424:23	2395:8,15,17
2394:15	2461:16	2383:26	2434:9	2397:8 2398:6
2395:5,9	state 1:1,4	steady 2418:16	2461:26	2403:25
2396:17	2337:24	2510:8	streets 2357:26	studied 2443:1
2397:16,22,23	2338:3 2393:4	step 2354:21	strength	studies 2397:26
2397:25	2393:14	2450:10	2437:25	2398:4
2398:15,17,18	2400:17,21	STEPHEN 4:15	2438:5 2476:8	2419:16,19,20
2398:22,26	2405:8	Steve 4:7	strengths	2419:23
2399:1,9,17	2415:25	2401:24	2446:20	2422:24
2400:1,2	2443:5	stimulate	stricken 2410:8	2450:3,3,5,6,7
2407:2	2500:26	2423:23	2442:10	2450:7
2412:17,20	2510:8	2502:8	2444:7 2504:9	2452:14,14
2413:4,24	stated 2392:10	stipulated	strict 2405:26	2453:3,18
2466:7,10,16	2435:12	2496:13	2408:16	2458:11,19,22
2466:23	2458:3	stipulation	strictly 2426:7	2475:10
2514:17,25	2473:25	2332:14	2459:24	2487:15,24
2516:13	2496:17	2391:12	strike 2401:26	2488:2 2500:9
Stanislaus	statement	2496:3	2409:25	2505:19
2341:7,9	2335:1	2497:10	2442:3	2507:11
Star 2479:19	2463:12	stool 2395:13	2443:18	2519:2
stark 2512:4	2464:2	2466:10	2471:1	study 2443:8
Stars 4:8	2465:13	stop 2357:15	2490:10	2450:15
start 2330:10	2467:11	2414:14	2504:4	2451:7
2346:16	2483:18	2428:26	striking 2457:26	2452:10
2352:5 2401:7	2498:20	2435:5	strive 2411:3	2453:9
2408:25	2502:26	2436:23	strong 2437:26	2458:13,18,23
2423:21	2330:12	stopped 2429:23	stronger	2459:1
		<u> </u>		l



				rage 33
2470:11	2418:7 2428:4	2441:2 2453:9	surety 2452:7	2377:13
2476:19	2434:12	2460:15	surgery 2440:9	2378:2
2477:5,6	2436:17	2465:17	surgery 2440.7	2406:15
2482:10	substantial	2485:21	2400:22	2436:24
2500:13	2350:16	2487:19,20	2495:22	2469:7,17
2505:24,24	substantially	2492:1	surprising	2472:22
subject 2348:26	2448:17	2493:25	2373:23	synapse 2428:11
2350:3	success 2374:16	2497:24	surveillance	synchronicity
2374:11	successful	2499:6,14,17	2348:17	2457:1,4
2375:12,15	2374:1,4,10,20	2499:18,21	2392:16	syndrome
2385:25	suffer 2398:23	2505:2 2507:3	susceptible	2435:13
2389:5	2431:15	2518:12	2433:13,17,19	2436:22
2452:15	2513:16	supported	suspect 2383:1	2505:1
2484:14	suffering	2366:7	sustain 2343:21	synonymously
subjected	2408:26	2448:20	sustained	2426:2
2445:16	2413:17	2459:22	2352:3 2355:1	synonyms
subjective	2441:1 2469:8	2467:22	2355:15	2425:19
2486:15	2472:22	2492:12	2364:17	Synthesis
subjects	2507:2	2498:25	2371:8,21	2451:11
2352:16	2508:17	2504:15	2372:12	synthesize
2353:23,25	sufficient	supporting	2379:22	2422:15
2395:17	2384:21	2403:25	2384:24	synthesized
2520:10	2491:24	2490:1	2442:10	2415:4
submission	suggest 2454:8	2491:24	2463:9,18	synthetic 2424:7
2330:17	2501:1	supports	2464:6,16	syringe 2352:15
submit 2368:7,9	2510:17	2498:14	2479:13	2381:17
2368:12,17	suggesting	supposed	2480:7	syringes
submitted	2440:17	2486:25	2481:22	2344:10
2371:2	suggests	suppression	2497:11	2354:11
Suboxone	2510:22	2510:11	SWAT 2345:9	system 2347:5
2509:24	Suite 3:21 4:17	sure 2347:2	swear 2337:13	2352:17
subsequent	5:6	2357:20	2393:1	2384:9,18
2438:1	summarize	2372:3	sweaty 2343:20	2456:13,16,17
substance	2505:15	2377:25	sworn 2338:9,25	2456:19
2377:10	SUPERIOR 1:1	2383:11	2345:21	2462:8
2379:15	supply 2368:2	2384:13	2347:12	2471:26
2396:20	2384:21	2385:18	2361:18	2472:1,5,6
2397:1	2436:10	2388:22	2393:12	Systematic
2417:17	2463:13	2449:22	symptoms	2451:11
2418:1,4	2464:3,25	2462:11	2342:5	systems 2478:26
2425:14	support 2334:11	2469:11	2343:13,23	
2427:19	2370:13	2474:12	2349:21	T
2429:22	2399:24	2509:15	2352:23	TA 2395:11
substances	2406:1 2416:6	2511:3 2516:5	2358:25	table 2335:13,19
			l	l
•				



				Page 34
to akla 2412.0	2472.21	2405.5	2470.11	2496.1 2 19
tackle 2413:9 tactical 2345:9	2473:21 talking 2366:4	2405:5 2412:24	2470:11 2471:25	2486:1,2,18 2488:4 2492:8
take 2334:7	2405:6			
		2414:23 2417:9	2472:25 2475:3 2478:6	2492:13
2364:19	2426:16,16,17	2417:9		2493:9,10,17
2373:14	2442:15		2483:11,20	2494:2,6
2381:20	2452:3	teaching/ment 2397:13	2486:19	2498:11,21
2390:12	2511:22 talks 2512:1		2488:1 2489:2	2499:5 2502:11
2408:6 2425:7		team 2345:9	2489:18	
2426:22,25	taper 2406:14	2347:14,15	2498:6	2512:13
2430:2	2406:17	2394:24	2501:22	termed 2485:3
2432:11	2417:1,5	2421:18	2506:8	terminology
2439:26	2462:7	tech 2337:18	2509:12	2425:21
2440:2	2505:20,26	2359:14	2520:5	terms 2387:4
2449:11	2507:4,12	technician	telling 2423:21	2406:4 2434:2
2455:5,7	tapering 2406:2	2340:2	Tem 1:26,26	2434:6 2435:1
2484:15	2408:14	techniques	Temple 3:12	2443:4
2486:14,21,26	2506:23	2516:12	temporal	2444:15,17
2510:26	2507:25	teeter-totter	2438:6	2447:21
2513:4 2521:9	target 2400:9	2427:26	temporarily	2452:15,26
2523:16	2404:5 2405:1	TEITCHER 5:4	2432:20	tested 2347:13
taken 2344:8	2441:23	telehealth	tempore 2330:8	2386:3
2362:25	2509:3	2407:6	2330:19	testified 2338:9
2378:16	2520:21	tell 2336:17	ten 2342:23	2339:7
2390:15	tasked 2366:17	2341:16	ten-plus	2363:24
2408:18	taught 2395:21	2352:6 2357:1	2331:22	2364:2,15
2484:17	2398:6 2399:9	2377:17,25	term 2339:19	2369:1,10,25
2508:26	2399:9,13,16	2382:25	2341:15,17,18	2370:14
2330:13	2400:1	2393:20	2341:22	2371:19
takes 2510:7	2401:15	2394:8 2396:1	2374:9 2376:6	2373:6
talk 2381:19	2403:8	2400:12	2396:19	2382:26
2427:19	2404:13	2403:18	2408:3	2385:16
2436:2	tea 2354:13	2404:18	2410:24	2393:12
2445:17	teach 2361:3	2408:4 2414:9	2418:24	2403:13,18,19
2449:9	2395:6,8,17,19	2415:16	2425:20	2403:23
2457:13	2395:20,23,24	2421:2 2430:2	2433:2	2404:4
2460:3 2472:3	2399:1 2403:3	2431:15	2441:20	2444:11
2475:13	teacher 2398:11	2439:17	2446:17	2449:16
2483:5 2485:2	teaching	2442:25	2460:21	2478:25
2502:11	2395:14,15	2451:19	2469:9,12,23	2491:25
talked 2377:6,7	2397:7	2452:9,23	2469:24	2492:2
2398:25	2398:25,26	2455:11	2470:15	2514:11,21
2402:15	2399:22	2456:15	2471:9,19	2522:14
2417:8,9	2400:4	2457:22	2473:1	testify 2403:15
2425:9	2402:24	2460:15	2485:22	2448:13
L.				



				rage 33
2467:20	2364:18	2431:21	2381:22	2462:7 2466:9
2495:15	2367:19	2485:20	2391:2,9	2476:23
testifying	2371:24	2509:21	2398:12	2479:15
2369:17	2373:13,15	therapy 2407:19	2402:20	2480:1
2431:12	2374:24	2411:9 2433:5	2402:20	2485:11,14,17
2481:18	2376:22,24,26	2488:7,19	2403.23	2486:6,10,22
2522:15	2370.22,24,20	2489:3	2404:12	2487:17
testimony	2383:10	2491:18	2409:20	2491:2
2331:25	2385:4,7	2492:22	2423:6 2427:2	2509:22
2336:3,23	2386:10,11	2517:22	2431:26	2511:11
2337:24	2387:9 2389:6	thereof 2330:11	2432:17	three-legged
2344:19	2389:8,11,13	thereof 2330.11 thing 2336:21	2437:12	2395:13
2352:1 2355:8	2389:25	2354:11	2457:26	thughes@laco
2364:5	2390:5,7,9,11	2428:25	2460:19	3:14
2369:23	2390:3,7,9,11	2464:14	2461:17	tie 2512:21
2370:15	2391:11	2503:6 2507:6	2466:9	TILAK 3:3
2379:3	2392:13,17,20	2511:26	2468:23	time 2334:26
2387:19	2392:13,17,20	things 2343:2	2472:3 2475:4	2335:15
2388:4	2393:17	2350:26	2478:25	2336:11
2391:19	2417:7	2352:10	2481:24	2343:7
2393:4	2423:18	2356:21	2482:1 2484:2	2346:10,12
2404:11	2431:9	2378:18	2489:10	2348:9,11
2405:6,12	2442:13	2405:21	2490:8	2353:25
2415:17	2444:26	2420:3 2433:8	2491:26	2359:26
2431:6	2452:18	2436:1 2509:3	2494:2	2362:19
2463:20	2455:1,20	2511:21	2495:18	2366:9
2464:1 2467:4	2468:22	2522:16	2503:19	2370:18
2472:10	2484:16,24	think 2330:18	2508:11,21	2373:4
2523:15	2487:7	2330:26	2516:26	2376:23
testosterone	2497:12,14	2331:10,12	2519:14	2385:4
2493:11	2521:12	2332:17	2523:9	2386:22
Teva 5:2	2523:19,20	2334:18,26	third 2477:22	2388:20
2490:23	thebaine 2424:1	2335:2,4,8	thorough	2390:5,10,13
2491:14	theft 2482:18	2336:21	2475:8	2391:18,25
thank 2334:23	themes 2422:11	2337:19,21	thought 2373:5	2416:12,21
2337:6,21,23	2422:12	2341:21	2440:25	2417:22
2338:6,11,13	2495:26	2346:24	2456:25	2426:18,22,23
2338:16	theoretically	2347:17	thoughts	2427:1 2429:9
2340:23	2430:1	2352:25	2430:12	2432:22
2344:16	theory 2434:18	2364:8,11	thousands	2433:12
2349:6 2352:9	2436:2	2365:26	2406:25	2440:11
2355:16	therapeutic	2368:3	three 2332:1,3	2441:6,24
2356:25	2436:19	2370:19	2353:16	2445:26
2360:11	therapies	2377:4 2381:8	2439:6 2451:2	2446:4
1				



				rage se
2455.10	2202.5 2200.7	2414.10	2245.14	2405.24
2455:18 2460:10,14,23	2393:5 2399:7 2405:12	2414:10 2438:20	2345:14 2346:22	2405:24 2408:20
2460:10,14,23	2403:12	2484:12		2411:13
		2506:19	2348:24,25 2349:2,2,9,15	2411:13
2461:3,5,8	2415:18		/ / /	
2482:13	2425:9	topics 2399:4	2349:19,22,26	2416:18
2483:16	2472:10	2405:11	2358:1,10	2417:16
2484:13,15	2473:21	2414:24	2360:22	2424:26 2425:2 2432:1
2485:9 2486:25	2512:11 2514:11,22	2415:16 2440:5	2361:2,7,22,23 2361:26	2486:1,2,6
	toe 2343:15	touch 2343:19	2363:24	2488:4 2492:8
2506:12,26 2508:17	told 2380:26	touch 2343.19	2364:8,14	2492:13
2513:5	2381:21	2359:7	2365:24	2492.13
2523:10	2520:18		2368:15	2505:15
timeline	tolerance	tourniquets 2354:17	2371:10	2507:21
2452:25	2426:13,14,16	track 2373:26	2396:5,12	treated 2406:22
times 2339:9,12	2426:13,14,16	2375:24	2400:16	2406:25
2339:15	2420.21,20	TRACY 3:11	2423:1	2400.23
2353:15	2432:23	trade 2342:16	2456:26	2431:16
2373:18	2432.23	trafficking	2472:13	2435:16,20
2375:11	2486:11,21	2348:19	2472.13	2453:10,20
2383:26	2487:1 2503:7	2350:20	2520:8,9	2465:6
2403:19		2352:22	trainings 2382:2	2478:14
2404:4 2447:9	2503:10,12 2506:15	train 2361:12	trainings 2382:2 transcript 1:21	2478:14 2499:3,25
2448:8	2509:8 2512:2	2362:4	2331:10	treating 2377:6
2476:26	2512:7	2364:21,24	2332:2 2335:9	2408:25
2476.26	tolerant	2366:1	2392:7 2330:9	2408.23
tin 2354:14	2506:11	2455:14	transcription	2413:4
tip 2428:5	tolerate 2486:7	2456:21	2330:10	2417:16,19
2429:1	2493:9	2472:2,7	transcripts	2440:21
tipped 2429:18	tomorrow	trained 2341:26	2337:3	2486:16
2429:25	2523:19	2349:9,12	transition	2507:16,23
2432:19	Tony 1:6	2359:4	2344:24	2508:20
2435:14	tool 2365:10	2362:22	transitional	2513:15
tips 2428:1,2,17	2410:22	2364:3,4,10	2345:5	treatise 2438:19
tissue 2460:26	2474:2,21	2365:2,5,9,19	transitioned	treatment
2485:10	tools 2434:22	2423:11,15	2345:1	2344:14
title 2414:15	2473:22,24,26	trainee 2345:3	2347:19	2357:14
2451:7	2475:9	2349:18	transmission	2358:11
2475:22	top 2366:14	training	2428:24	2365:10
titrate 2401:8	2456:3 2484:7	2340:16	transmucosal	2389:24
today 2332:16	2508:16,23	2341:13,25	2509:4	2400:19
2336:22	2522:23	2342:3,8,12	trauma 2434:3	2401:9,20
2390:10	topic 2399:13,21	2343:12	2435:2 2440:9	2407:12,15,16
2392:14	2400:4	2344:1	treat 2330:15	2407:22
	•	•	•	•



				1490 07
2410:13,16,18	trends 2354:24	2416:21	2503:14	ulcers 2502:20
2410:20,23,25	2355:6,19	2478:11	2510:1 2512:6	ultimate
2411:9	2356:2,6	2481:24	Tylenol 2502:22	2512:22
2413:21,21	trial 1:19	2505:20	2502:23	ultimately
2417:23	2332:18	2508:13	type 2342:3	2418:3 2509:6
2418:4,22	2333:15	tsunami 2436:4	2349:19,26	Um-hum
2419:17,22	2392:6 2514:3	Tuesday 1:22	2354:8 2384:8	2466:12
2431:17,20,22	2523:14	2330:1 2337:1	2384:17	2519:13
2431:24	trials 2411:7	turn 2339:22	2389:20	unable 2376:20
2432:16	tried 2419:15,16	2341:12	2395:13	2406:14
2437:6,7	tripping	2349:6 2350:6	2420:20	2419:22
2439:2,4	2356:22	2356:25	2421:11	2436:23
2440:26	true 2451:22,23	2405:4 2409:3	2431:15,24	uncapped
2441:13,18	2452:7 2454:9	2423:19	2463:22	2356:21,23
2449:13	2458:10	2447:12	2465:23	uncommon
2454:22	2461:7 2474:6	2448:11	2466:6	2441:16
2456:7	2502:12	2452:20	2467:26	unconscious
2460:21	2511:16	2454:16	2494:10,12	2353:25,26
2462:19	2330:10,11	2455:8 2457:9	2501:12	2365:15
2470:18	truly 2503:23	2469:1	2503:17	2375:15
2474:23	2512:19	2477:16	types 2342:13	underappreci
2482:25	truth 2337:26	2483:9	2342:26	2434:7
2485:4,22	2337:26	2484:12	2343:5	undergoing
2487:16,20,22	2338:1	2495:12	2349:10,13,23	2509:13,17
2488:14,20	2363:22	2497:22	2351:15,23	undergraduate
2491:23	2364:12	2499:10	2352:1,25	2394:9
2492:16,18,25	2369:12	2501:17	2365:3 2418:6	2399:18
2493:5,23	2370:2,10,16	2504:11	2420:9	undergraduates
2494:4,14,14	2371:5,15	2505:11	2423:24	2405:3
2497:19,20,25	2380:26	2508:5	2431:17	underlying
2498:11	2393:6,6,7	2512:10	2515:25	2391:9
2499:12,15,23	2421:13,14	turning 2453:19	2517:11	2460:12
2501:1,14,25	2434:22	2471:6	typical 2375:8	2486:17
2509:13,17,18	2458:3	two 2332:25	typically	underneath
2510:4	try 2422:3	2339:10	2346:16	2362:11
2514:13	2434:9	2347:19	2347:24	2451:17
2518:1 2520:9	2436:14,23	2353:15	2348:14	2459:16
2520:23	2444:10	2394:11	2356:23	2460:11
treatments	2473:26	2401:22	2365:11	understand
2431:19	2479:20	2426:25	2379:17	2333:20
2492:20,20	2509:16	2439:20	2485:17	2341:23
2509:19	2519:6	2451:2	2507:26	2348:6
tremendous	trying 2383:3	2462:26	U	2362:17
2505:25	2415:6	2467:6 2491:2		2367:14
	l	l	l	1



				1490 00
2372:17	2436:16	2461:4	2425:21	2517:19,21,23
2374:21	2509:19	up-titration	2426:9 2429:3	2517:26
2411:26,26	2510:3	2473:6	2429:9,15,22	2518:7
2415:7	United 2401:1	urban 2372:6	2430:12	users 2352:10
2423:16	2420:3	urge 2435:15	2431:21,23	2379:19
2427:17	2437:11	urging 2416:13	2432:5,22	2380:4,6
2428:25	2440:7	usage 2373:23	2434:20	uses 2373:22
2429:6,7	2441:12	use 2339:19	2435:8,15,20	2374:19
2433:6 2444:2	2442:22	2341:14,20,22	2438:23,24	2425:21
2444:22,24	2447:3 2448:2	2342:18	2439:3,6,8	2498:23
2460:20	2463:21	2343:2,3	2440:26	2502:2
2468:3	2464:1	2346:5 2348:5	2441:20	usually 2485:8
2469:11	units 2447:1	2350:3,19,24	2445:21,24	utilize 2375:7
2472:7	universal	2351:13	2449:26	2516:13
2496:11	2461:9	2352:19,23	2450:4,18,22	utilized 2360:22
2509:15	universities	2353:4,14	2450:24,24	2365:14
2518:2	2399:4,20	2354:5,16,20	2451:3,3,4	
understanding	university	2358:1 2361:4	2460:20	V
2341:16	2393:23	2364:22,25	2461:20,23	vague 2380:11
2342:15	2394:9,10	2365:2,5,9	2467:7 2469:8	2402:26
2344:7,21	2395:9	2373:18	2471:9,19	2463:7,9
2370:1 2374:9	2396:17	2375:5,24	2472:15	2479:11
2391:21	2397:26	2379:26	2474:1 2476:8	2480:5,7,14,16
2440:13	2398:15,18,18	2380:10,19	2476:11,14,15	vagueness
2453:23	2398:22,26	2381:9 2383:2	2477:1	2466:25
2455:15	2399:1,9,19,20	2383:16	2485:21	2471:2
2512:20	2404:13,14,19	2396:20	2487:19,21	2481:16,21
2516:24	2404:25	2397:1	2488:4,7,14	valid 2470:1,5
understands	2407:2	2398:23	2489:3 2490:2	2473:25
2344:20	2414:12	2401:8 2404:6	2492:12	Valley 2407:5
understood	2466:7,11,23	2405:26	2493:8 2494:2	value 2453:7
2425:20	2516:14	2406:23	2495:24	various 2351:2
2495:22	unknowingly	2407:6,24	2498:14,20	2395:20
undertook	2383:16	2408:16,26	2499:4	2396:7
2505:20	unmute 2431:7	2409:7 2410:7	2502:10	2434:22
undertreated	unprecedented	2410:16,21,22	2503:7	varying 2433:16
2401:1,3	2400:25	2410:23	2505:22	2474:7
2520:14	unrelated	2411:13,22,23	2508:1	VCOC 2348:5,9
Unfortunately	2498:13	2412:5	2509:22	2348:23
2430:6	unresponsive	2416:15,16	2510:5 2512:4	vehicles 2347:1
2492:19	2365:15	2417:17	2512:6	vein 2335:18
unfounded	untethered	2418:1,4,21	2513:11,12,17	venous 2352:17
2504:5	2330:25	2420:5,11,12	2513:18	venture 2504:26
unique 2432:2	untrue 2458:3	2425:14,15,18	2514:12,18	verified 2332:25
	<u> </u>			<u>l</u>



	I	ı	Ī	ı
verify 2332:3	\mathbf{W}	wanting	2488:15	2441:11
version 2362:2,3	W 3:12	2430:12	weaker 2429:10	2442:25
2362:4	wade 2443:15	wants 2428:14	2432:23	2446:1,3
versus 2453:24	wait 2335:10	warrant	website 2456:24	2460:4
2457:5 2507:8	2429:3 2430:1	2348:20,20	2456:24	2476:24
vet 2488:11	waiting 2335:12	Wars 2479:19	Webster 2474:3	West 3:6 4:17
vicinity 2375:13	2337:11	wary 2461:19	week 2336:26	5:5
2407:1,3	wake 2365:17	Watson 1:13,15	2337:5 2413:7	we'll 2335:13,16
video 2405:22	2427:8	5:2,3,10,10,11	weeks 2426:26	2335:24
viewed 2369:15	walking	waves 2375:14	2429:16	2339:1 2352:5
views 2368:19	2429:25	way 2344:22	2460:23	2352:6
2369:20	wandering	2354:13	2485:24	2457:15
2371:1,4,6	2416:21	2374:21	2487:22,22	2468:23
violating	want 2335:7,19	2377:9	2493:26	we're 2336:8
2520:22	2359:8	2381:14	2494:1	2362:26
violent 2338:26	2371:25	2397:11	2498:18	2363:10
2347:20,22,24	2381:19	2398:16	2508:12	2370:20
2348:3,6,14	2385:17	2412:6 2416:4	weighing	2394:5
virtually 2407:8	2405:4 2432:5	2424:4,18,23	2517:26	2406:19
virtue 2423:1	2440:4	2432:17	weight 2428:20	2416:7
visible 2401:18	2447:12	2433:3	2429:13,17	2426:16,17
vision 2366:15	2448:11	2434:15	2430:3 2466:4	2467:21
visiting 2397:8	2449:8	2437:16	2513:22	2474:13
visual 2361:1,5	2452:20	2439:25	weighted	2496:25
2361:5	2454:16	2444:10	2432:26	2508:13
visualization	2455:7	2446:19,21	weighting	2516:5
2344:5	2461:10,15	2459:23	2433:8	we've 2405:5
vital 2401:15	2465:20	2465:24	weights 2428:22	2407:16
2520:18	2473:9	2466:4,19,21	2429:3	2417:8,9
voice 2479:18	2474:12	2473:2 2474:9	Weimer	2425:9
VOIR 6:2	2483:9,19	2479:20	2505:24	2462:26
voluntarily	2484:13	2481:24	WELCH 5:13	2474:12
2408:12	2485:2	2482:1 2497:4	well-educated	2501:5
Vowles 2449:23	2494:17	2498:11	2415:7	whatnot 2335:6
2450:2,8,15	2507:7 2508:4	2502:21	well-intention	2335:8
2451:9	2510:26	2506:2 2507:3	2415:8	wholesale
2453:17	2512:10	2516:21	WENDY 5:5	2331:5
2458:13,18,23	2514:2,9	ways 2335:2	wendy.feinste	2332:10
vs 1:8	2516:5 2518:3	2364:12	5:8	widespread
vulnerability	wanted 2421:11	2403:23	went 2332:26	2440:12
2433:16	2443:14	2404:20,22	2413:7	willing 2421:8
2474:7	2457:16	2439:20	2416:17	will-call 2336:8
vulnerable	2483:20,26	2441:25	2421:2,20	WILSON 1:20
2494:6	2503:1 2511:3	weak 2487:19	2426:1	Wing 3:6
	l	l	l	l



wish 2331:8	2392:25	2421:11,16	2503:25	2404:10
2335:17	2392:23	2423:7	wounds 2359:8	2406:4 2408:7
wishing 2357:15	2403:3	2424:23	write 2410:18	2413:6 2414:3
withdraw	2444:26	2427:25	2415:10	2416:12
2331:4	2446:12	2428:16	writing 2415:14	2422:20
withdrawal	2464:13	2444:2,22	2445:11	2427:21
2406:15	2467:2,3	2448:24	2447:4 2468:8	2427.21
2400.13	2481:16,17	2460:6 2464:8	written 2371:1	2430:2,10
2429.2	2483:15,25	2468:20	2419:13	2430.2,10
	2485:13,23		2438:19	
2436:22,24		2469:10		2437:5 2439:6
2486:12,16,19	2497:1,3,6	2485:23	2447:19	2508:3
2487:1,5	2513:22	2505:6	wrong 2437:19	yellow 2484:21
2505:1 2510:6	2515:13	2506:18	wrote 2372:25	yesterday
2511:20	2521:25	2514:16,24	2414:11	2330:12
2512:2,7	2522:14,15	2515:4	2415:6	2332:7 2336:5
withdrawn 7:7	2523:17	2518:13	www.MagnaL	yesterday's
7:8 2332:9	witnesses	worked 2386:19	1:25	2334:10
2333:10	2335:5,7,20	2386:22	Y	yes-or-no
withholding	2336:1,3,8	2394:1		2355:7
2520:16	2337:2	workers 2460:3	Yale 2394:9	YODER 4:6
witness 6:3	witness's	2460:5	yeah 2388:12	young 2397:7
2330:25	2391:19	workforce	2422:17	
2331:1	word 2426:1,2	2404:5	2461:15	Z
2332:12,12	words 2398:16	working	2470:14	ZACHARY
2335:12	2429:12	2350:18	2471:22	5:14
2337:7,11,14	2506:5	2407:9 2443:5	2475:6,8	zachary.byer
2337:21	2515:18	2462:6	2486:3	5:17
2338:2,5,8	work 2336:13	2486:23	year 2340:13	ZOE 3:16
2351:18	2339:1,23	works 2365:14	2345:26	zoom 2:1 2330:6
2352:4,5,9	2340:6 2341:6	2366:5 2383:2	2373:21	2371:25
2353:9 2355:8	2341:8,13	2502:11	2387:20	2330:13
2356:9 2360:4	2345:2,6,7	World 2453:20	2394:11,21	zsavitsky@oa
2369:18	2347:15	2453:22	2402:13	3:19
2371:8,19	2348:23	2458:24	2404:17	
2372:13,23	2350:7	worn 2447:24	2439:3,6	0
2373:5	2356:14,17	2486:25	2462:6	0.03 2453:8
2376:13	2376:2,3	worse 2433:4	years 2339:6	00s 2423:12
2377:22	2395:14,14	2435:11	2341:10	016 2333:1
2378:15	2405:7	2460:12	2345:8	0921 2391:14,26
2379:5	2406:16	2461:6	2350:10,21	
2380:13	2407:12	2507:14	2354:22	1
2384:13	2409:23	worth 2412:11	2373:8	1 1:15 3:17
2388:20	2412:9,24	wouldn't 2378:4	2394:11	2453:11,16,25
2390:7,11,23	2413:11,23	2387:16	2395:16	2453:26
2370.7,11,23	2713.11,23	2307.10		2454:1,1
	I	I	I	ı



				1 age of
2456:18	16 2374:6	2418:8,9,14,17	2442:24	2523 2330:10
2457:20	2487:8,22	2441:9 2518:8	2498:26	28 2:13
2477:6	2491:16	2000-2001	2017 2421:6	2830 3:21
1,000 2454:2	17 2452:8	2417:25	2438:13	29 2449:24
1:30 2430:15	18 1:22 2330:1	2001 2400:18	2446:5 2447:7	2450:12
10 2341:10	2340:7	2401:14	2519:3	2451:17
2343:11	18th 2330:15	2402:8	2018 2470:11	29464 2:13
2408:5 2439:5	1800 5:6	2002 2409:2,25	2474:26	27404 2.13
2453:25	19 2:5 2497:22	2002 2407.2,23 2003 2394:16	2487:25	3
10,000 2454:1,1	2518:6	2409:2,26	2019 2359:12	3 2333:15,16
10,000 2434.1,1 100 1:15	1950s 2428:9	2003-2004	2366:12	2334:7 2452:7
2438:17	1970s 2453:3	2409:20	2381:24	2473:11
2447:5 2448:6	1970s 2433.3 1980s 2440:16	2004-2005	2382:5 2475:7	2479:8
2453:26	2440:19	2409:8	2020 2402:21	2480:11
2500:2,3	1989 2441:11	2005 2340:12,13	2020 2402.21 2021 1:22	2481:8
101 2423:20,20	2470:7	2508:7	2330:1	3rd 2345:20
101 2423.20,20 102015 2333:4	1990s 2440:6,8	2007 2447:6	2330:15	3:10 2484:16
102015 2333.4 102016 2333:4	2441:9	2448:1	21 2449:23	300 5:15
11 2381:6	2514:12,19	2009 2487:25	2450:11	2365:25
2450:23	2515:2 2518:7	2488:20	2450.11	31st 2373:21
2512:5	2520:25	2491:19	2501:18	320 2340:19
11:00 2390:13	1995 2394:20	2010 2402:21	2301:18	352 2359:23
11:00 2390:13 12 2341:10	1995 2394:20 1997 2447:3,11	2437:6	3:13	2371:17
2449:25	1997 2447:3,11 1998 2444:12	2500:16	22 2505:11	36 2477:6,8
2449:23	2446:8	2520:16	23 2508:5	38 2450:3,7
2460:23	1999 4:8 2437:5	2011-2012		2451:18,24
	2446:13	2418:8	2333 7:4,5,8 2338 6:7	2452:14
2485:24		2012 2441:11	2358 6: 7 2351 1:26	
2487:22,22 2493:26	2447:3			4
2493:26	2	2444:12,13,19	2330:7,19	4 2485:3
2494:1	2 2381:6	2445:22,22,24	2377 6:7 2385 6:8	2497:24
	2,000 2441:17	2445:25		2498:9
2508:12	2.4 2362:3	2446:5,8,13	2386 6:8	4:14 2523:21
120 2476:26	20 2346:17	2447:2	2389 6:7	400 4:17
2477:8,10	2373:21	2013 2517:10,17	2392 7:3	44th 4:23
122 2476:26	2374:19	2014 2345:20	2393 6:10	45 2336:7
13 2451:18,23	2387:14,22	2475:14,25	24 2340:7	480 2340:22
2475:15	2390:13	2014-00725287	2453:4	
1367 2455:3,23	2404:10	1:8	2510:25	5
14 2474:14	2414:3	2015 2451:12	240 2340:20	5 2333:17
15 2343:11	2414:3	2015-2017	2455 7:4	2334:1
2346:17	2500:1,2	2446:1	25 2387:14,22	2437:15
2414:3	2300:1,2 2000s 2402:20	2016 2414:12,24	2395:16	2439:5 2469:4
2477:16		2415:15	2422:20	2473:10
150 2448:6	2409:2,25	2416:13	250 2365:25	2484:26
	l	l	l	I



		Page	62
2400 5 11	2274.0		
2499:7,11	2374:8		
5-17-21 7:8	80s 2441:3		
2333:10	866-624-6221		
50 2408:23	1:24		
2418:19	9		
2500:2,2	9th 3:6		
500 3:12	9:00 2330:3		
510.238.6392			
3:18	2523:12,18 90 2346:12		
523 4:17	90 2340:12 90s 2423:11		
550 2447:8	2441:3		
6	90012 3:12		
6 2469:4	90012 3:12 90014 4:18		
2504:11	90014 4.18 90017-5844 4:24		
2511:7	90017-5844 4:24 90067 4:9		
	911 2346:5		
6th 3:12,17 4:17 600 5:6 2516:17	2347:4		
2516:26	921 2391:2,3,5,8		
60654 5:15	2392:9,12		
635 2392:6	92626-7653 5:6		
66 2381:6	92660 2:5		
6702 7:8	94104 3:21		
2330:13	94612 3:17		
2332:8,8	95 2451:17		
2333:10	2452:6		
2390:20	95110-1705 3:6		
2391:12	75110 1705 5.0		
2392:2,17			
6812 2333:14,26			
7			
70 3:6 2348:11			
700 2447:6			
2448:1			
720 2340:22			
75 2427:20			
777 4:23			
8			
8 2333:17			
2334:1			
2449:25			
2452:1 2454:6			
80 2348:11			

